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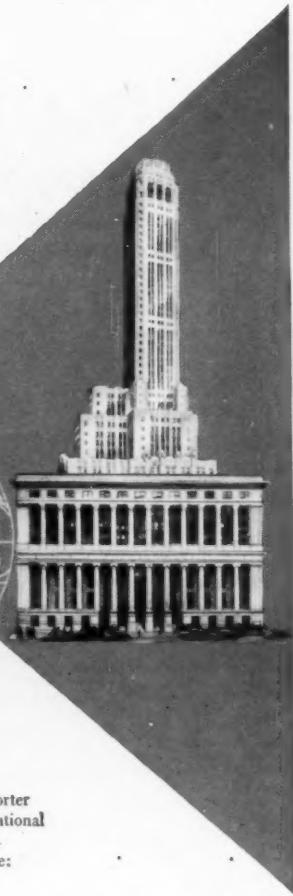
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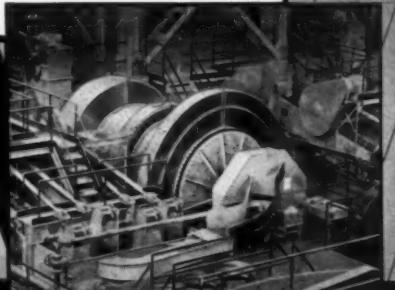
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TOWERS OF VISBY

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BALTIC'S TALE OF ANCIENT GLORY

BY E. R. YARHAM

ON THE HISTORIC ISLAND OF GOTLAND, lying midway between Sweden and Latvia, and whose rugged shores are beaten by the cool waters of the Baltic, stands an ancient seaport encircled by massive walls now ivy-clad and mellow with age, its houses clustering above and below the cliff in picturesque medley. Ignored by modern dictators of politics and trade, and half-forgotten by the world, this venerable city of Visby leads a leisured life as if dreaming of its past glories. Today it is aptly called "the Town of Ruins and Roses." Yet it once stood at the crossroads of the world's commerce; merchant princes thronged its busy streets; and its intrepid mariners roamed the seas of the world, dropped anchor by London Bridge, penetrated the vastnesses of Russia's huge forests, and sailed the lengths of her mighty rivers.

They gathered in the riches of Arabia, and wrung the secrets of the Orient from its traders, returning home with precious wares and gold and silver to add to the unrivalled commercial supremacy of their island home. So legendary was their wealth that an old ballad declared:

The Gotlanders weigh gold with twenty-pound weights,
And play with the rarest gems;
The pigs eat out of silver troughs,
And the women spin with golden distaffs.

Now only the lingering splendor of its merchants' homes, the charm of its decayed churches, and the mighty walls which still dominate the surrounding country and shut in the now shrunken city, bear witness to its former



Paul Quistrom

"The Porch", a strange rock formation at Lergruv on the island of Gotland.

wealth. Yet it is beautiful, even in decline, and few cities can compare with it in picturesquely loveliness.

The story of this venerable city goes back for centuries before the days of its rise to commercial greatness in the Middle Ages. Two thousand years before the Christian era a town stood on its site. It was a place of religious sacrifice for the heathen tribes living there, and even in times so remote as the Stone Age, the island of Gotland was a notable trading center. Legend relates that the discoverer and first settler of the island of Gotland was a man named Thjelvar. The story in the saga runs that the island was submerged by the waters of the Baltic in the daytime, and rose to the surface at night. But Thjelvar was undaunted by such a peculiar characteristic, and exterminated the trolls and evil spirits that infested it with fire, thus freeing it from the thrall of the waters.

Later in the history of the island, the saga says, "When the Gothlanders [the men of Gotland] were heathen, they sailed with cargoes to every land, both Christian and heathen. Then saw the merchants Christian ways in



Swedish National Travel Office

A view of Visby.

Christian lands, some of them being baptized and even bringing priests back with them to Gothland. Bothair of Akebäck built a church on the place now called Külstade. But as the people of the island would not suffer the church, but set fire to it and burned it, he built yet another with feasts and sacrifices at Vi, which when the people also tried to burn, he climbed upon and said: 'If ye will burn the church, then shall ye burn me also.' This the people would not do, as Bothair had as wife the daughter of Likkair Snälle, who was their ruler at that time, and Likkair enjoined them not to do this deed. Whereupon the church was left to stand unburned: It was built in the name of All Saints on the place that is now called Peter's Church, and was the first church in Gothland which was left to stand." (*Sweden* by Dudley Heathcote).

The far roamings of these early people, sometimes it must be confessed as marauders rather than honest traders, are evidenced by the thousands of coins from many lands, including Arabia, Greece, Italy, and England, which have been unearthed on the island among other articles, including a Chinese cup and a shell from the Indian Ocean. The prosperity of Visby lasted from the eleventh to the fourteenth century, but it was not until the twelfth century that the city became prominent in the commerce of Europe.



American Swedish News Exchange

The Northern Gate in Visby's city wall.

itself the trade which had been formerly scattered among the other settlements of the island, and its growth was rapid. Its sons became wealthy, and merchants from afar, and particularly from Germany, came and settled there, hoping to prosper. The city became one of the chief centers of the operations of the all-powerful Hanseatic League, and soon it was spoken of as the richest town in Scandinavia. Ships from many lands dropped anchor in its harbor. It was this flourishing condition of its commerce which gave rise to the imperative call for some universally recognized code of usages, and led to the drawing up of the "Sea Law which the merchants and seamen have made at Visby," and which became the ruling code of northern waters. The mariners and merchants of Visby were well known in England, for the old steel-yard near Blackfriars Bridge crossing the Thames, was the place where they stored their iron merchandise. For centuries the guildhall of the Hanseatic League stood in Cannon Street. Thus the trade of Northern Europe gradually passed into its hands, and Visby was without a rival.

Wealth brought its penalties, for covetous eyes were cast upon the thriving city, and to protect it, the massive walls, most of which can be still seen, were erected. They were built towards the end of the thirteenth century, and replaced much earlier fortifications. For two and a half miles these impressive defenses, now toned with age, but then stark and bare, crowned with

By the end of the next hundred years, so pronounced had its supremacy become that its famous "Sea Laws," drawn up about 1240, governed the mariners of the North Sea and the Baltic. Remarkable evidence of the commercial prestige of its merchants is seen in our own word for British currency, "sterling." The men of Visby were known as Eastlings, or Österlings, and the word *sterling* is said to be a corruption of these words, although some philologists deny this as its origin.

The island thus became the commercial center for Sweden, Denmark, Germany, and Eastern Europe, with connections extending much further in every direction. Visby, as the island's main town, gradually drew to



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A market place in Visby, with the ruins of St. Catherine's Church.

stalwart towers rising to a height of from sixty to seventy feet, extended their battlemented summits around the city with its stately merchants' houses and more than a dozen churches upon which much love and unbounded wealth had been lavished. It is little wonder that during the later Middle Ages, Gotland with its precious prizes became the objective of pirates and foreign invaders. Unrebuffed by the huge walls, which, built on the solid rock, had converted the city into one of the most impregnable fortresses of medieval Europe, they thought only of the wealth of its merchant princes, and by ceaseless raid and foray attempted to cause its downfall.

Yet the first disturbances that led to the earliest signs of disintegration, were internal, and brought about by the quarrels between the citizens of the town and the people of the island as to the right of Visby to claim the entire commerce of Gotland. About 1280, the Swedish king, Magnus



The Valdemar Cross marking the battle field of Visby. The Latin inscription reads: "Anno Domini MCCCLXI feria IIII, post Jacobi ante portas Visby in manibus Danorum ceciderunt Gutenses, hic sepulti, orate pro eis!"



Swedish National Travel Office

Part of the centuries-old city wall of Visby.

Ladulås, levied taxes as a punishment for these disturbances. In this civil strife foreign adventurers were only too willing to participate. Wars with the mainland countries followed; crippling taxes were piled upon the city by conquering monarchs; and to add further woe, there came terrible pestilences which decimated both people and cattle.

Finally in 1361, Valdemar Atterdag, King of Denmark, determined to ravage the city. He laid waste the island and took Visby. Legend says that the daughter of the burgomaster fell in love with the invader, and delivered up to him the keys of the town; but another story runs that the merchants and soldiers themselves admitted Valdemar, hoping thereby to claim his clemency and protection, and once more gain undisputed control over the trade of the island. The Dane proved inveterate, for he compelled the vanquished burghers to buy him off with three hogsheads filled with gold and precious stones. Only by this huge sum was Visby saved from being razed to the ground.

Retribution followed swiftly upon the conquering Dane. In the church of St. Nicholås at Visby are two rose windows, each of which, the legend runs, contained a glorious carbuncle, so brilliant that they acted as guides

to the seamen steering their barques into the harbor at night. These formed part of the booty of the Danish king, but at the islet of Stora Karlsö, just off the coast of Gotland, he encountered a terrific storm which wrecked his navy with the loss of nearly all hands, while he himself barely escaped with his life. Fishermen declare that even today when the sea is calm, the precious carbuncles can be seen glowing on the ocean bed.

From the day when Valdemar sailed away in proud insolence, Visby declined, although he had not entirely broken its power. Events of far more world-wide importance undermined its supremacy. The discovery of new trading routes to the East, and the rise of upstart competitors facing the more central North Sea, left the city in a backwater. Gotland became a happy hunting ground for pirates and foreign invaders, who spread terror over the island, and Sea Rovers used it as a base from which to conduct their forays. Even a former king of all the Scandinavian countries, Erik of Pomerania, after his deposition became a pirate and made Gotland his base of operations. Wars between Sweden and Denmark added to its misery, for it was the objective of both countries to command it. Finally came the Reformation during which her churches were sacked, and their treasures stolen, so that they were left to fall into ruin, sad memorials of a vanished glory.

There still remain many evidences of the city's stormy past, apart from the more pleasant survivals in the gabled houses of its one-time prosperous merchants. Some years ago, just outside the walls were recovered grim reminders of Visby's fall, for hundreds of skeletons of the gallant burghers and peasants who fell in the fierce encounters with invading bands, were unearthed.

Ten thousand feet of the old wall still dominate the surrounding country, and enclose the old city itself. Of the great towers which once lined the walls, thirty-seven still stand. Many tales still linger of the thrilling incidents that have taken place around these massive defenses. That of the so-called Maiden's Tower is the most tragic. It is said to have been built for the Visby maiden who stole the keys of the city from her father, the borgomäster, in order to deliver them to Valdemar. In this grim tower, so the legend runs, the wretched girl was bricked up alive; as punishment for her treachery.

Its ruins and its roses, its tale of ancient glory, and the way of life of the people living there today, all combine to make the city of Visby a place of exceptional interest, not only for the historian and for the tourist but also for those who seek beauty and romance in out-of-the-way places.

E. R. Yarham is a British author who has contributed several articles to the REVIEW on historical and cultural topics.

DENMARK'S ECONOMY AT THE CROSSROADS

By GUNNAR LEISTIKOW

I

FOR ABOUT A YEAR AND A HALF Denmark has been the scene of a great debate, in which the major part of the population has taken part. In fact, it is the most vital inquiry since the discussion in 1948-49 about whether Denmark should join NATO. This time, however, Denmark's economic future rather than her security is at issue. The question is: which of the various schemes offered for supranational unity in the Europe of tomorrow should Denmark settle for?

The three suggested projects are the following:

1. The six-nation "Common Market" of France, Italy, Western Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg which came into existence on January 1, 1958;
2. The so-called Free Trade Area comprising the seventeen members of the Organization for European Economic Cooperation (OEEC), which is still in a vague stage of negotiation;
3. The plan for a Nordic Customs Union composed of Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Finland, and possibly Iceland.

Since terms like "customs union," "common market," and "free trade area" are sometimes used at random, it may be appropriate to explain what exactly these phrases stand for in this case.

A "free trade area" is a combination of sovereign states that have agreed to abolish customs, quota systems, and other trade restrictions between them, but which retain their tariffs and quotas toward all non-members.

A "customs union" is a closer form of integration in which the customs systems of the member states are abolished and replaced by a common system with a unified tariff for the whole union. Often, although not in all cases, union authorities are created to administer the union, like the so-called customs parliament of the German Customs Union 1819-71. In this, as in many other cases, the customs union was but the first step to a future federal union.

A "common market" is a customs union plus. When several independent countries join in a customs union, this is usually but one indication of their desire to gain economic strength through unification in general. Such nations may also be prepared to strengthen their unity through additional efforts, by creating a common labor and capital market, by joining in a monetary union, etc. They may even go as far as to merge part of their sovereignty by creating union authorities with far-reaching powers.

This is what the six Western European nations have done. The Rome

treaty that established the Common Market provided for free movement of labor and capital among member nations and for equalizing labor laws and social conditions. It also created organs with legislative and executive powers within the scope of the new set-up. A simultaneously signed treaty established a common atomic energy agency with provisions for common exploitation of atomic energy along lines similar to those of the Coal and Steel Community that the same six nations created a number of years ago.

In other words, a customs union is a closer kind of free trade area, and a common market is more intimate type of customs union.

However, the nomenclature alone does not give a precise idea of the degree of unity. If a Nordic Customs Union materializes along the lines elaborated by a special committee, it will in many ways mean an even closer tie among the Scandinavian nations than the Common Market has created for the six Western European nations. Much of what the Rome treaties prepare to establish over a long transition period, such as a common labor market and standardization of labor and social legislation, is already living reality of today in Scandinavia, in certain respects to an even higher degree. A Nordic Customs Union over and above the legal integration of today would therefore in reality constitute a very close common market.

For the purpose of this article we will adhere to the most commonly used designations. When we talk about the Free Trade Area, we mean the arrangement now being negotiated among the seventeen nations; the Common Market means only the set-up of the six Western European countries; the denomination of Customs Union is reserved for the plan considered by the Nordic states.

II.

The Customs Union is the oldest of the three projects. As early as 1948, Denmark, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden set up a joint committee with the task of investigating questions of common interest for post-war reconstruction in Scandinavia. One of the tasks of this committee was to look into the possibilities for establishing a Nordic customs union. Later Finland also participated in the deliberations, after the Soviets decided not to invoke a clause in the Peace Treaty which forbade Finland to enter any "anti-Soviet" coalitions.

The idea as such was anything but new. More than a hundred years earlier, in 1845, a Dane, V. Rothe, had suggested that Denmark, Norway, and Sweden follow the successful example of many German states and establish a customs union. Although the suggestion was proffered during the heyday of "Scandinavianism", it did not catch on. During later decades of the nineteenth century the customs union idea was discussed at various times with the same negative result, usually by economists on a rather academic level rather than by politicians and manufacturers.

The reason for this was down-to-earth practicalities. During the century of the industrial revolution, the economies of the Scandinavian nations developed in centrifugal directions. Only Sweden attained a fairly well-balanced structure, largely due to her rich deposits of high-grade iron ore and other minerals which encouraged industrial development. Denmark concentrated on developing those farm exports to England and Germany which became the very foundation of her wealth, while Norway's merchant marine became one of the world's largest and the main asset in the Norwegian national budget. Inter-Scandinavian trade remained rather negligible, and many Scandinavian producers competed with those of the sister countries in foreign markets. In other words, there were more powerful factors that separated rather than united the economies of the otherwise so closely related nations. To many, a customs union seemed even more of a threat than an inducement. Many small Norwegian manufacturers feared competition by the larger and wealthier Swedish industries, and Danish farmers were reluctant to help their Swedish colleagues reach a competing level in foreign markets.

For all these reasons a Nordic customs union was not seriously debated by responsible leaders until the necessity for reconstructing Europe's war-ravaged economy brought all kinds of schemes to the fore in the 1940's. The Committee of 1948 and its experts were to make a thorough investigation of what a customs union might entail for the various sectors of the several countries' economies. The result was a 270,000-word report which took three years to compile, and which was presented to the Nordic Council on October 21, 1957. It is by far the most detailed study of any similar project anywhere at any time.

Nevertheless, the report got a rather mixed reception in the press. One reason for this was that although it covered 80% of the inter-Nordic trade, two most essential sectors were left out provisionally for future study: agriculture, which means so much for Denmark, and fisheries that are hardly less significant for Norway and even more so for Iceland. The experts found that there was no use dealing with these two categories as long as a fundamental presupposition for the whole union was still undecided. It was generally agreed that a Nordic Customs Union is only thinkable within the framework of a general Free Trade Area which will include Britain and comprise seventeen European nations in all. But, as we shall soon see, it is at the time of writing still highly doubtful whether the tremendous difficulties complicating the negotiations will be overcome.

III

The Common Market is of much younger date. It was first suggested at a foreign ministers' meeting in Messina, Italy, in 1955. But the idea

has been pressed vigorously from all sides, and the Rome treaties of March 25, 1957 that formalized the project, became effective on January 1, 1958. Thus, the Common Market is already a going concern and has bypassed the Nordic Customs Union plan. However, since the approach is about the opposite of that planned for the Customs Union, it will take quite a number of years before its framework is filled in with the necessary detail.

When the idea of a Common Market was first brought forward, there was agreement that it was of paramount importance to induce as many Western European Nations as possible, to become members. After all, the impelling idea behind the project of a supranational market was the American experience with a single market from coast to coast that had made mass production, higher wages, and a steadily rising standard of living, possible in the United States. It was most important of all to persuade Western Europe's leading industrialized nation, Great Britain, to join. Then, little by little, the others would undoubtedly follow suit until a true mass market for 240 million people was achieved.

Although the idea as such was met with great sympathy in the United Kingdom, it proved to be anything but easy to draft Britain into regular membership. The reason was the Preference Tariff system that constitutes the main link of the Commonwealth of Nations and which the British were unwilling to give up in favor of a new European system.

After a while the British came forward with a compromise suggestion that combined their Commonwealth Preference system with some of the main features of the Common Market plan. They recommended that all seventeen members of the OEEC constitute a Free Trade Area which would abolish all inter-area customs and other trade restrictions but leave it free to every member to maintain its own tariff in relation to non-members. However, in view of the fact that 90% of all British imports from Commonwealth countries are agrarian products, the United Kingdom limited its free trade area suggestion to industrial products only.

Much as the continental European nations favored a project that would enable the British to join them in a customs-free area, it was in particular this exemption of agricultural products that became a stumbling block for the whole project. For heavy exporters of farm products inside and outside the new Common Market, it would not do to adhere to any bloc that excluded agricultural goods.

One of these countries is Denmark. While the Danes in recent years have been building up a considerable export of manufactured goods to offset the post-war decline in their farm exports, bacon, eggs, and dairy products still constitute 60% of the bulk of her exports and even much more of the total export value. About one half of Denmark's farm export still goes to England, while 34% goes to the six Common Market countries. Only

3·4% goes to the other Scandinavian countries. The remaining 12-13% is being sent to all other countries, including the United States. However, of the total exports, including industrial goods, the six countries have been buying slightly more from Denmark than Britain in recent years.

IV

Originally, the discussion about Denmark's future economic orientation was somewhat unrealistic because none of the three schemes had taken definite form yet. At that time the debate cut across the lines of parties and pressure groups as a sort of intellectual free-for-all. Many political and highly emotional arguments dominated the discussion. Later these were relegated somewhat to the background when more down-to-earth problems like future export possibilities, the impact of higher tariffs, and competition with foreign industries became the center of attention.

It soon became evident that many Danes feared close cooperation with a set-up where the World War II occupying power, Germany, would play a major, and possibly a leading, role. This was not only for nationalistic reasons and based on suspicion against everything German. Many people feared that membership in the Common Market might open the door for an unwanted immigration of German labor and German capital that might strengthen the German minority in the southern frontier region and imperil the national unity of Denmark. Others were more broadminded and hopeful about the new West German Federal Republic but saw a danger in getting entangled with a country with tremendous unsolved problems involving the East, like German reunification and the final settlement of Germany's eastern boundaries.

To most Danes the idea of a customs union with Denmark's Nordic sister nations has strong emotional and national appeal. Anything furthering Scandinavian unity has always been popular in Denmark, and the idea of a Customs Union ties in closely with these feelings. Nobody is afraid of mass immigration from the north, for such immigrants as have come from other northern countries are easily absorbed and assimilated.

Denmark is the only Scandinavian country that has the choice of either a northern or a southwestern orientation. A Nordic Customs Union without Denmark would be unthinkable, and this fact gives, in the eyes of many Danes, Denmark a special responsibility to think not only in terms of her own immediate advantage but also to consider the interests of her sister nations. The Common Market of the six might turn out to be the beginning of a future West European confederation or even federal union and might slowly drag Denmark away from the rest of Scandinavia.

Another argument favoring a Nordic Customs Union is that it would enable exposed Finland to establish closer ties with the rest of Scandinavia.

After the Rome treaties had delineated the main principles for the Common Market, the discussion in Denmark took a new turn. Now, it was debated whether or not Denmark ought to join this organization, but this discussion was somewhat lopsided and rather premature. After all, the real problem was not whether Denmark should become a member of this particular grouping but whether one or even two of three choices would be preferable. But since the Free Trade Area and the Nordic Customs Union were still in a somewhat nebulous stage of development, attention was drawn to the one scheme that had already become reality.

The Danish agricultural organizations were the first to come right out for one of the plans—they wanted Denmark to join the six right away. They stressed that the British market for Danish farm products had been diminishing for a number of years while the markets in the six nations were expanding. Also, it was of paramount importance to prevent Dutch and German farmers from monopolizing the Common Market outlets before Denmark could become a member. Finally, as a member of the Common Market Denmark might have a stronger position in negotiations with Britain for the purpose of persuading the British to relax their post-war protectionist stand and sway them to take a more lenient attitude toward their pre-war purveyors of food items.

Other groups were slower in making up their minds. Danish industrialists were split. Some hoped for better export possibilities inside the Common Market, others feared foreign, particularly German, competition. Many feared the impact of future high-customs walls around the Common Market on a country that boasted of having one of the lowest tariffs in the world. Even a Nordic Customs Union would have higher tariffs than Denmark has now, but not nearly as high as the Common Market. Would not that be preferable? Might not the Common Market's high tariffs make Danish production costs exorbitantly high and force many Danish manufacturers out of business?

Labor was uncertain. The unions feared that coordination of social conditions inside a grouping that included Italy and France might mean a lowering of the living standard of the Danish workers, which rates high in Europe. Since social legislation is now practically identical in all Scandinavian countries, no such danger would arise in a Nordic Customs Union. Would not that be better?

As long as no detailed information was available about the Customs Union and the Free Trade Area, many questions could not be answered. In spite of the Agrarians' pressure to sign up quickly with the Common Market in order to insure Danish inside influence, the government decided not to act rashly. Instead, it encouraged further expert analysis of all schemes in order to provide the whole population with detailed information before a final decision.

There was a very pertinent reason for this. Denmark's new constitution of June 5, 1953, carries a provision for possible statutory delegation of Danish sovereignty to international organizations. Article 20 provides that a bill dealing with transference of powers vested in Danish authorities to international organs must be adopted by a majority of five-sixths of the total number of the members of the Folketing. If this majority is not obtained, the bill must be submitted to the voters in a referendum.

For membership in a Nordic Customs Union, or in a Free Trade Area in the form originally suggested, Article 20 does not apply, since no transference of sovereignty is involved. This however, is the case with the Common Market. As things stand today, it seems extremely unlikely that a bill transferring part of Denmark's sovereignty to Common Market organs would ever be carried by a five-sixths majority in the Danish parliament. Thus, the final decision would lie with the voters.

Apart from the general principle that the electorate in a democracy should be aware of the scope of measures it is called upon to decide, it is therefore also a matter of practical politics that the voters should have fullest possible information about these questions:

Another reason why the government is postponing action is that there seems to be no definite view inside the cabinet which orientation would be preferable if the chips were down.

The cabinet members from the two smaller coalition parties, the Social Liberals (*Radikale*) and the Single-taxers (*Retsforbundet*) under the leadership of the Minister of Economics, the Social-Liberal Bertel Dahlgaard, are very definitely in favor of a Nordic Customs Union. The main government party, the Social-Democrats, tend in the same direction, although less decisively so. They are impressed by the fact that labor is suspicious of the Common Market, but many party leaders feel that this distrust is somewhat exaggerated. They feel rather optimistic about the long-range possibilities of expansion inside a set-up with 160 million inhabitants, and if it proves impossible to attain a form of a Free Trade Area that is satisfactory to Denmark and as a necessary condition for a Nordic Customs Union, they can be expected to come out vigorously for membership in the Common Market.

Among the opposition parties, the Agrarians (*Venstre*), are definitely in favor of the Common Market, although some of their leading men are somewhat skeptical. The Conservatives are split and favor further research by experts. The Communists are, for reasons of their own, in favor of the Nordic Customs Union, probably mainly in order not to strengthen the Western European six through the adherence of additional countries. The single representative of the German minority is, as could be expected, on the side of the constellation of which West Germany is a member.

V

Toward the end of 1957 it seemed that, generally speaking, a possible small majority of the total population might be in favor of a Nordic Customs Union within a Free Trade Area, provided such an area would offer sufficiently favorable conditions for Denmark's farm interests. Otherwise, a sufficient number might be prepared to switch their votes to carry the Common Market. Actually, very few Danes think that a small country of four million inhabitants can afford isolation outside any regional arrangement.

However, as time went on, it dawned upon many people that they might never have a choice between two equal propositions. For one thing, the Nordic Customs Union may prove to be beyond the scope of practical politics. While the idea is popular in Sweden and Finland, the whole project is very much a bone of contention in Norway.* And without Norway the whole project is doomed.

Another moot question is whether the seventeen OEEC countries will ever agree upon a Free Trade Area sufficiently favorable for agricultural interests to enable Denmark to join.

On the other hand, during the winter something developed that may dampen the enthusiasm of many adherents of the Common Market. Certain experts, headed by Dr. Jørgen Pedersen, Professor of Economics at Aarhus University, have analysed and severely criticized this organization.

In his *Noter til diskussionen om Fællesmarked og Frihandelsomraade* (vol. 14 of the series "Skrifter fra Aarhus Universitets økonomiske institut", Aarhus, 1957, 134 pp.) Dr. Pedersen maintains that many of the figures provided by Common Market enthusiasts will not stand up under serious criticism.

Pedersen points out that industrial exports to Common Market countries only went up so spectacularly in recent years because half of these exports consisted of ships and machinery for which there was only temporary demand. In the long run, however, these items can be produced just as satisfactorily and maybe even cheaper by Germany, under the umbrella of the high Common Market tariff. If Denmark with her low tariff for raw material and semi-manufactured goods were to stay outside, she might export industrial products to overseas outlets under more favorable conditions than Common Market countries could.

Dr. Pedersen also criticizes the figures of the farm organizations. While it is true that agricultural exports to Common Market countries have been

* A good summary of the debate in Norway can be found in Joakim Ihlen; *Næringsliv og tollpolitikk* (Gyldendal Norsk Forlag, Oslo 1957, 381 pp.). The book also contains a wealth of valuable material about the experiences with previous customs unions and other forms of international economic cooperation.

on the upgrade in recent years, and that exports to Britain have been receding, the Agrarians have failed to point out that Danish exports to third—mostly overseas—countries have been increasing much more rapidly than those to the former countries. This holds also true for industrial goods.

Dr. Pedersen's conclusion is that Denmark should concentrate her efforts on penetrating overseas regions—highly developed markets like the U.S. and Canada as well as underdeveloped countries like India and Brazil—with agricultural and industrial products alike. This, he thinks, Denmark can do much better outside the Common Market than as a member. He is in favor of joining the Free Area under favorable conditions for Danish agriculture, otherwise he thinks that Denmark should go it alone.

Dr. Pedersen is not the only one to take this view. Quite a number of economists have taken the same or a similar stand. But so far, their views do not seem to have penetrated political circles, as became obvious during the debate in the Folketing on February 11, 1958 about the different plans.

One reason while the whole discussion still has an uncertain and somewhat academic character is that nobody knows as yet how each scheme may affect Denmark's agricultural exports.

Even the Common Market's stand on agriculture is anything but clear as yet. The Rome treaty dealt with this subject only in very general and vague terms. The only definite thing was that a regulated rather than a completely free market was envisaged for farm products. Everything else was left to future negotiations.

Such negotiations are expected to take place at an Agricultural Conference of the six countries later this year or in 1959. Denmark has tried to secure an invitation to this conference as an interested outsider and has obtained the support of West Germany. But she has run into severe opposition from the Netherlands which holds that participation by an outsider in any other capacity than as a silent observer would be unconstitutional. The Dutch have let the Danes know that Holland would welcome Denmark very much to the conference but only as a seventh member of the Common Market. But only the Danish Agrarians are prepared to buy the pig in the poke.

As far as the Customs Union is concerned, agricultural problems are still being dealt with in committee negotiations. But even if Sweden and Finland should go as far as to allow Danish products to compete with their own on even terms, a 20-million market would not be the best solution for Danish agriculture with a production apparatus keyed to the much larger markets of pre-war England and Germany.

By far the greatest hopes are tied to the Free Trade Area. But there everything depends on Great Britain. Can and will the British secure for Denmark a sufficiently large part of their market? In post-war years Britain

has been subsidizing her own agriculture to the extent that her leading pre-war egg-supplier, Denmark, has been squeezed out of the British egg market. In January 1958 the British took an initiative which the Danish Minister for Foreign Trade, Jens Otto Krag, called a considerable step forward. But he considered it still far from an acceptable basis for an understanding. Nevertheless, talks are still going on behind the scenes.

So far, indications are that negotiations about all three choices will drag on for quite some time. At the time of writing (in April) no solution is in sight. There is therefore very little basis for bringing the debate about Denmark's economic future to a conclusive end.

Dr. Gunnar Leistikow is a Danish-American writer whose articles on world affairs and related subjects have appeared in the REVIEW and many other magazines in the U. S. and the Scandinavian countries.



GERHARD ARMAUER HANSEN

By OTTO LOUS MOHR

Bergen, Norway's second largest city, has played a unique part in the cultural life of the country. Not only was it the birthplace of the famous violinist Ole Bull and of the composer Edvard Grieg, but men such as Henrik Ibsen, Bjørnstjerne Bjørnson, and Frødstrup Nansen spent years of their youth in Bergen, years which greatly influenced their later development.

In Bergen was also born—on July 29, 1841—Gerhard Armauer Hansen, one of the greatest figures in the field of Scandinavian medicine. The son of a cashier in the local branch of the Bank of Norway, he was number eight in a gifted family of fifteen.

Armauer Hansen matriculated at the Royal Frederiks University in Christiania (now Oslo) in 1859 and had from then on to earn his own livelihood. He combined tutoring, and teaching in private schools, with his study of medicine which he chose for his future profession. Far in advance of his time, he dissected flowers and animals with the school pupils, realizing that botany and zoology cannot be learned from textbooks only. As a medical student he held, for one year, an appointment as Prosector of Anatomy. Besides, he found ample time for various student activities, including athletics.

Following his graduation in 1866 he served as an intern at the State Hospital in Christiania and also as a medical officer at the Lofoten cod fisheries before he, in 1868, became a physician at the No. 1 Lepers' Home in his native

city. Here he also later held a position as assistant doctor at the Lungegaarden Hospital for lepers under the physician-in-chief, D. C. Danielssen.

Dr. Danielssen was a commanding personality. He was an expert in leprology and dermatology and also an accomplished zoologist. In cooperation with W. Boeck he had in 1847 published a classical monograph on leprosy with an atlas containing 24 colored plates. The French edition was in 1848 awarded the Prix Monthyon by the French Académie des sciences. In 1949 Dr. de Souza Aragio of Rio de Janeiro published a facsimile edition of the atlas, in honor of "les vrais fondateurs de la moderne léprologie, les très illustre norvégiens Danielssen and Boeck." Armauer Hansen was thus fortunate in having the best possible guidance when he took up his studies of the insidious disease which from now on was to be the object of his tireless scientific efforts.

The history of leprosy, that ancient and widespread pestilence, is a stark and tragic story of endless human misery. The lepers were social outcasts, pariahs in the most inhumane and cruel sense of the word.

Thanks to a leprological publication, Armauer Hansen obtained, in 1870, a travel grant from the Norwegian Medical Society and went to Bonn and Vienna to study microscopical anatomy. In Vienna he became acquainted with Darwin's work. This was for him some-

thing of a revelation: "I don't know of anything that has fructified my reasoning and my work to such an extent as the desire to do research in such an unprejudiced and truthful way as Darwin did and to be equally careful and equally cautious in drawing conclusions from the evidence obtained."

The cause of leprosy was at the time the subject of much controversy, and the disease was believed to be hereditary. On his return to Norway Armauer Hansen took up his systematic studies in a modern scientific spirit and pretty soon felt convinced that leprosy was a specific and contagious condition, an opinion which was strongly opposed by his chief, Dr. Daniellsen, who in 1872 also became his father-in-law. But "no one was more ardent in encouraging, indeed provoking me to work to prove the validity of my own theories."

In 1873 Armauer Hansen succeeded in demonstrating in leprous tissue microscopical bodies,—"rods lying clustered together in bundles and intersecting at acute angles"—which might be colored with osmic acid and which were resistant to lye of potash. He published these observations in Norwegian, in a medical periodical in 1874.

Though he was very cautious in drawing premature conclusions from this discovery, it represents a scientific achievement of the very first rank. The micro-organism discovered was *Myobacterium leprae*, the cause of leprosy, this terrible scourge of humanity through millennia. In order to grasp the full significance of this accomplishment it is sufficient to recall that no bacteria had so far been associated with any chronic disease. Pasteur's revolutionary investigations appeared subsequent to Armauer Hansen's discovery, and Rob-

ert Koch did not isolate the tubercle bacillus until nine years later (1882).

Armauer Hansen's observation was followed by a strange interlude. Among the numerous foreign scientists who visited Bergen, the leading center of lepro investigations, was also Albert Neisser from Breslau. Armauer Hansen showed him his findings and provided him with numerous preparations. In 1879 Neisser published a paper on the lepra bacillus and a method of coloring it with an improved staining technique. And from then on Neisser's name was attached to the lepra bacillus in German literature. But Armauer Hansen had described the bacillus five years earlier and also in the meantime, colored it with the improved technique. In 1880 he published his evidence also in a German periodical, and at the first International Lepra Congress in Berlin, in 1897, he was unanimously declared to be the discoverer.

In 1875 Armauer Hansen was appointed physician-in-chief to all the lepers in Norway. On the basis of available statistics he felt convinced of the efficiency of the measures previously applied in Norway; i.e. the isolation of the lepers, preferably in public leper houses. Now that the infectious nature of the disease had been revealed, the main goal was to carry out a vigorous isolation of all lepers. In 1877 he framed a "Law concerning the relief of poor lepers," and in 1885 the final step was taken in the form of a "Law concerning the isolation and placing of lepers in public leper houses."

The latter law encountered considerable opposition. It was said to interfere with personal freedom. The fact that this law was nevertheless passed by



DR. G. ARMAUER HANSEN

A photograph on which is inscribed a greeting to Edward Grieg

the Storting bears witness to the general confidence in Armauer Hansen's ability. In 1856 no less than 2,833 lepers were registered in Norway. Today their number has been reduced to five, and public leper houses are now non-existent. And wherever leprosy has been combatted the whole world over, the Norwegian system has been applied.

Throughout his career and into his advanced age Armauer Hansen published a series of papers dealing with different leprological problems. In 1888 he visited the United States, as 200 Norwegian emigrants were known to be lepers. Here too, he obtained convincing evidence of the non-hereditary nature of the disease.

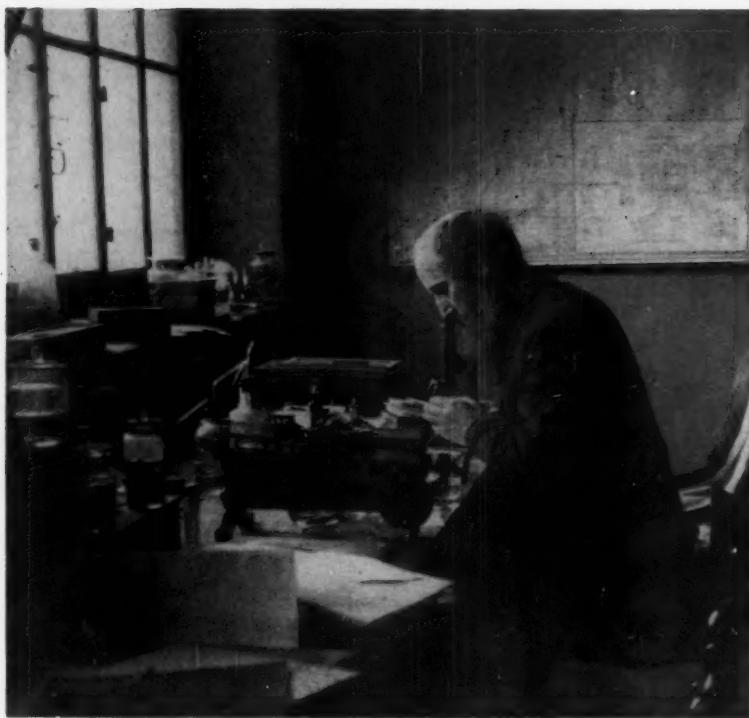
Armauer Hansen's medical publications bear witness to the fact that his approach was that of a general biologist. A series of papers dealing with topics from general pathology and pathological anatomy are among his publications. But at the Bergen Museum he also carried out numerous zoological investigations on different marine organisms. In this field also he did pioneering work, and a new Gephyrea is termed *Stephanostoma Hansenii* in his honor. When Dr. Danielssen died in 1887, Armauer Hansen succeeded him as President of the Bergen Museum, a position he held until his own death.

Armauer Hansen's professional duties, which included protracted inspection tours to lepers hospitalized in the rural districts, and the demands of his manysided scientific activities would have taxed the powers of any ordinary man. But it was typical of his positive personality that he wanted the public to share in the scientific advances of the

time. As an assiduous popularizer of science he developed marked abilities. His reasoning was sound and unprejudiced, and his opinions were presented with a fetching fervor. His articles appeared partly in Norwegian periodicals, partly in the daily press.

From what has been said above it is readily understood that Darwin's work, and especially the theory of evolution, figured prominently in his popular lectures and writings. In 1886 he wrote a book entitled *Darwin and the Theory of Evolution*. And since these new ideas ran counter to all traditional orthodoxy, he was severely attacked; not only by the clergy. Far in advance of his time, Armauer Hansen consistently rejected the theory of the inheritance of acquired characteristics. On the whole, his activity as a popularizer has contributed greatly to intellectual freedom and to a growing understanding of science and scientific ideas in Norway.

As a confirmed rationalist Armauer Hansen was a declared free-thinker. He writes: "It was regarded as impious to adopt Darwin's doctrine on the origin of the living organisms and particularly on the descent of human beings from animals. For human beings claimed that they had received the divine spark which they believed they possessed from ancient times, and it goes against the grain to abandon such flattering conceptions. . . . Religious forms are bound to change, if in fact, there is going to be religion at all in the future." Further: "It is merely a misplaced form of conceit to believe that one has absorbed all wisdom by the construction of a shadowy, nebulous god as a relief from all our insecurity and lack of knowledge. True modesty



Armauer Hansen at work in his laboratory in Bergen

is to acknowledge the latter and to work in order to reduce it."

Armauer Hansen's outstanding achievements secured world-wide recognition for him during his lifetime. He represented the Norwegian Government and held the chair at numerous international medical congresses; and it was really as a compliment to him that the International Lepra Congress in 1909 was held in Bergen with the honorary president being Armauer Hansen himself. The present writer, who attended the congress as a medical

student, still remembers the veneration with which he was treated by the delegates.

In later years important advances have been made in the treatment of leprosy. New therapeutics, particularly when applied during the early stages, may keep the lepers bacteriologically negative. The strict segregation of the lepers has accordingly been modified to a certain extent. But the basic principle remains the same, i.e. the prevention of intimate human contacts which may favor transmission. Common in Europe during the Middle Ages, the disease,



The bust of Armauer Hansen; by Jo Visdal, in the garden of the Bergen Museum

largely due to the work of Armauer Hansen, has been practically wiped out in Norway and most other European countries. But leprosy still remains widespread in Asia, Africa and the West Indies. According to a recent estimate the number of lepers has now been reduced to about ten millions,

On the occasion of his 60th birthday Armauer Hansen was the object of a rare testimony of international esteem. An international "Hansen Committee," with the famous, then 80-year-old, Rudolf Virchow as president, arranged an international subscription for the erection of a portrait bust of Armauer Hansen in Bergen. This bust was unveiled with appropriate ceremony in the Bergen Museum garden by professor Lassar from Berlin. In his address he read a letter from Rudolf Virchow, who was himself prevented from attending, which ends in the following way: "May you rejoice secure in the knowledge that your work has once and for all illuminated a great and controversial medical problem and that your name will be mentioned and honored throughout the world as one of the benefactors of mankind." In the same year Armauer Hansen's salary was raised by the Storting to equal the highest professorial salary. To these honors were during the years added high decorations, as well as memberships in numerous learned societies at home and abroad.

But all these honors did not change Armauer Hansen's modest and simple personality. He was, to quote himself: "a man whose soul steadily hungered for greater clarity and at the same time enjoying the continued search for improved knowledge. . . . I have never found the world a valley of tears. . . . The only thing that has disgusted me in life is growing old, noticing how one's mental and bodily vigor is sapped." Fate favored Armauer Hansen in this respect. He died in happiness, on an inspection tour in 1912 to lepers hospitalized in the rural districts.

To this man and his lifework the old Roman verdict may justly be applied: *Bene a re publica mèritus*.—he has served the state and his country well.

But in this case the motto has a wider application. He was in every respect—to use Rudolf Virchow's words—a benefactor of mankind.

Dr. Otto Lous Mohr, Professor of Anatomy and past President of Oslo University, is the author of several scientific works in the fields of heredity and medicine. One of Norway's outstanding humanists, he has also published books and articles dealing with literary and cultural subjects.

SUNDAY

BY VI GALE

(*On viewing a painting by Anders Zorn*)

On Sunday vigil at the-dark wood's edge
A herdgirl sits among forbidding fells;
Alone she waits a rising peal of bells,
Another week as flung up to her ledge.

Her cowstick trails its circle in the dust
Marking a season's curve from spring to fall;
An exile waits the valley's plangent call,
The drive toward-home behind the fatted trust.

Here to my lineage in your *kullor*, Zorn,
I look for solace. In this muted light,
Provincial, altogether bleakly Norn,

You praise a stand and not the magic flight;
Here to a need the reprieving will was born—
Your ritualist finds sabbath in her rite.

THE AMERICAN-SWEDISH TREATY OF 1783

175th Anniversary of First Treaty Signed by the U.S. with a Neutral Power

BY AMANDUS JOHNSON

IN 1782 King Gustaf III of Sweden directed his ambassador at Paris, Count Gustaf Filip Creutz, to propose to Benjamin Franklin that a Treaty of Commerce and Friendship be negotiated between the Thirteen States and Sweden, and one hundred and seventy-five years ago, after these States had achieved their independence, this treaty was signed.

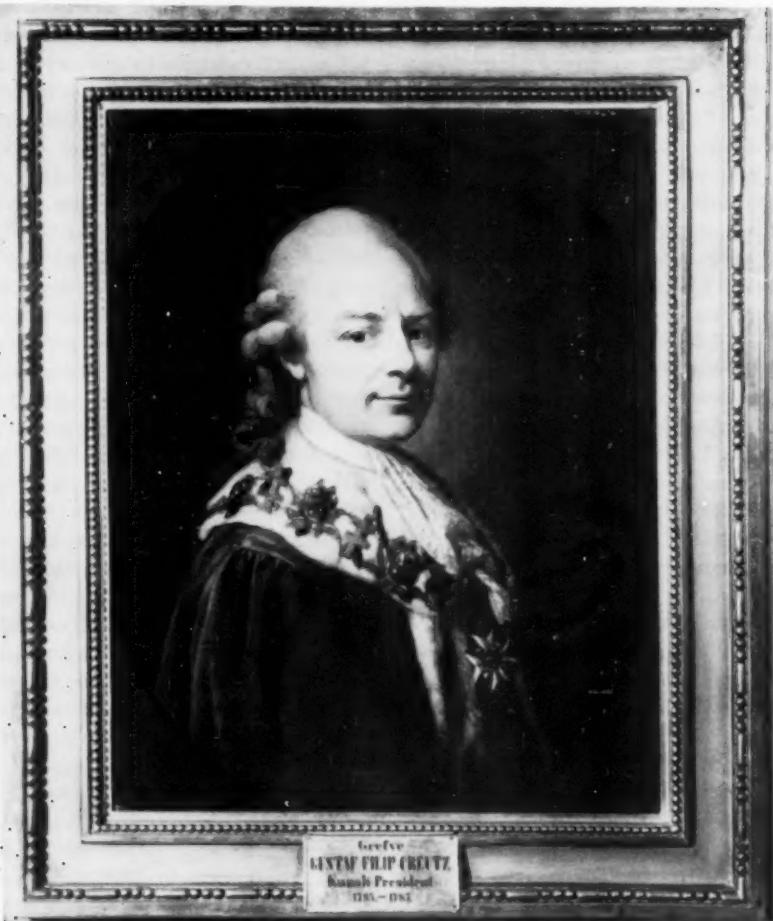
Although the governments of the Scandinavian nations were neutral in the war of 1776-1783, the peoples of these countries were predominantly pro-French and pro-American. Swedish officers and men fought bravely on American soil and in the American navy, and there were many Swedes and some Danes and Norwegians in the crew of the famous John Paul Jones. In fact, a Swedish officer prevented a dangerous mutiny on the *Bon Homme Richard* and thus probably saved the life of the famous American commodore by informing him of the plot in time to take counter-measures. Even the Swedish King at first sympathized strongly with the struggling colonies, and the nobility of Denmark, Norway and Sweden were largely in favor of the freedom of the Thirteen States.

The Thirty Years' War had brought about religious liberty for nations but not for individuals. (It was still the age of State religions.) The American Revolution went one step further. It established the principles of religious and political liberty for a nation and, theoretically, for each individual in

that nation. Besides this, the American Revolution was not only the first act in the drama of the struggle for freedom from colonial exploitation; it was also the opening scene in the long conflict that is now nearing its end: the liberation of all peoples and races, giving them the right to rule themselves according to their own adopted systems, borrowed or invented.

There was a general belief in those days, here and abroad, that the mightiest nation on earth would develop on America's shores, and Berkeley was not the only one to predict that Empire would be taking its course westward. King Gustaf III himself said in 1776 that America "may perhaps someday put Europe under tribute as she has for two centuries made America pay tribute." Dana, our first envoy to Russia, tells us that people in Europe at that time (1780-1782) "prophesied that America would become the great manufacturing country . . . [and] a military and naval power that will be terrible to Europe." Holding such opinions it seems but natural that the statesmen of the Old World should be eager to make treaties with the infant nation in the New World, and Sweden was by no means the only European power¹ that desired to come to a

¹ As early as February, 1783, the Ambassador of Rome was negotiating with Franklin concerning a treaty. Denmark proposed a treaty with the colonies as early as December, 1782, and in February, 1783, Baron Rosencrona approached Franklin about a treaty. Proposals and counter-proposals were made and a treaty



American-Swedish News Exchange

Count Gustaf Filip Creutz

A painting by Per Krafft (1785)

friendly understanding with the States,

was signed and forwarded to Philadelphia. It was presented to Congress in July, 1783. A year later Congress decided that negotiations should be continued, but not until April 6, 1826, was the first treaty of commerce and amity concluded between Denmark and the United States.

—but she was the first one to do so.

Sweden had a much larger share politically in the affairs of Europe during the eighteenth century than she has today, and her name weighed more heavily in the Councils of State than it does at present. It was, therefore,

considered important and a great compliment that Sweden should solicit a treaty of commerce and friendship with the newly born state on the other side of the ocean, and the people of America as well as their representatives appreciated it sincerely and said so.

Negotiations in connection with the treaty, begun in April, 1782, continued for about a year. The correspondence and the documents concerning these negotiations are voluminous and at times difficult to read. As a consequence, both American and Swedish scholars have made mistakes in details concerning the treaty and its interpretation. There have, for instance, been some discussion and wrong assumptions about the date of the document.

Franklin² wrote to Livingston on March 7, 1783, that he had "concluded a treaty with Sweden which was signed on Wednesday last" [March 3], and it has been supposed that someone "either Franklin or a copyist or the printer made a mistake of a month." That is not true. A draft of the treaty was actually signed on March 3, 1783, but this draft was later burned, as new proposals had been received from Stockholm. The facts are that the treaty was concluded and signed four different times!

The first signing took place in Janu-

² It may be interesting to note in this connection that Franklin's Instructions were signed by John Hanson, a direct descendant of a Swedish colonist who came here in 1654. John Hanson was our first president under our first Constitution.

The statement found in many books and articles even today that John Hanson was "the first president in Congress Assembled" is not true. The first president in Congress Assembled was Peyton Randolph, of Virginia, elected in September, 1774, in Carpenters' Hall in Philadelphia.

The Articles of Confederation, our first Con-

stitution, were adopted on March 1, 1781. Under this Constitution John Hanson was elected "on the first Monday in November [November 5], 1781," and served for the full term of one year. During his term of office the consular service was established, the U.S. post office was organized, "certain duties were delegated to the secretary of state," the beginnings made for a presidential cabinet, and the Seal of the United States was adopted and used for the first time on September 16, 1782, by John Hanson. See the *Journals of Congress*, Vols. XXI, 1099-1100, 1228; XXII, 56ff., 121 ff.; XXIII, 669 ff., and other volumes.

The negotiations were kept so secret that not even the French Ambassador at Stockholm "heard a whisper about them." But the news leaked out, probably through someone in Holland and the *Leyden Gazette* was quick to print the scoop. It became the sensational news of the month, causing several diplomatic repercussions.

Finally, both Franklin and the French foreign minister, Count de Vergennes, became impatient at the delay and desired to have the treaty officially consummated. Several more meetings were held between Franklin

and Creutz. More paragraphs were added and some of the old paragraphs were revised and in some cases revamped. "In order to eliminate all pretext for complaint [on the part of England]," says Creutz in his dispatch to the King, "I have persuaded Franklin to date the treaty on April 3 [1783]. My coming journey did not permit me to select a later date." Several changes were still made in some of the articles and the document was not completed in its present form until the middle of April, the same year, but April 3, 1783, was retained as the official date.

The treaty contains a Preamble, followed by twenty-seven numbered articles, one unnumbered article (about the duration of the agreements) and five separate articles, covering a great variety of topics. It was ratified by the Congress on July 29, 1783, and publicly proclaimed by that body on September 25, the same year.

It was to be in force for fifteen years, but a new treaty was not negotiated and signed until September 4, 1816, thirty-three years after the ratification of the original document. All the articles of the first treaty were retained, except articles I, II, IV, and XXIV, and article III of the separate articles.

The treaty of 1783 was in many respects ahead of its time. It included several principles championed by the celebrated Armed Neutrality of 1780, as for instance, freedom of the seas, free ships make free goods, religious freedom, as well as many other principles that have not been fully accepted even today. Being the first treaty negotiated after the Revolutionary War, it assumed special importance during the early nineteenth century, since it became a model for treaties with other

powers.

Article I proclaims that "there shall be a firm, inviolable, and universal peace and a true and sincere friendship between the King of Sweden, his heirs and successors, and the United States of America, and the subjects of His Majesty and those of the said States, and between the countries, islands, cities and towns situated under the jurisdiction of the King and of the said United States, without any exception of persons or places; and the conditions agreed to in this present treaty shall be perpetual and permanent between the King, his heirs and successors and the said United States."

This article has not only never been broken, but there has never been a serious misunderstanding between the two powers. During peace and war the people of Sweden and, we might add, of the other Scandinavian countries, have consistently been friendly to America, a statement that, perhaps, cannot be made about any other people in Europe.

In article XXIII it was stipulated that, in case of war between the two nations ("which God forbid," says the treaty), no subject of the king of Sweden and no citizen of the United States should be permitted "to take a commission or letter of marque for any armed vessel to act as a privateer . . . If any person of either nation shall take such a commission or letter of marque he shall be punished as a pirate." This was 73 years before privateering was abolished by the "famous declaration of Paris" on April 16, 1856, and 87 years before Great Britain prohibited the nefarious practice.

A part of the treaty was devoted to trade in peace and war. To give as

little cause for dispute and misunderstandings as possible, almost every conceivable article of trade was listed and contraband was clearly defined. In the list of non-contraband we find raw material "which has not been worked into the form of any instrument or thing for the purpose of war" (but which could be made into war materials), wearing apparel, and all kinds of food and provisions "which served for the nourishment of man."

Article VI pertains to property (including real estate), testaments, donations, etc. of individuals. Persons living in either country, even though they have not been naturalized, shall have the right to dispose of their property freely "either by testament, donation, or otherwise" and such property of whatever kind "shall be exempted from all duty" (*droit de détraction*).

This part of the treaty has been invoked more often than any other section of the document. Although there were disagreements about this article in the olden days and "infringement of the United States upon the rights set forth in this treaty," as intimated by the historian Cronholm, the article has

for more than a century worked to the mutual satisfaction of the two nations. It has, of course, been of much greater benefit to Sweden than to the United States, due to the thousands of Swedish immigrants who have died, here and willed their property to relatives, or charitable institutions, in Sweden.

In 1817 (one year after a new treaty had been adopted), this article was invoked for the first time in behalf of America, as far as I know. The American born Eloise Humle passed away near Karlskrona in 1816 and left a considerable estate which she willed to her two brothers.

It is rather remarkable that the sections of the treaty relating to hostilities are far more humane and benevolent than the rules (if we may label them thus) which the so-called civilized nations are supposed to follow in times of war today. After reading this state paper of one-hundred and seventy-five years ago, we are prone to conclude that we have not advanced very far in toleration, Christian charity, chivalry and humanity, but have, rather, in many respects, slipped back toward the dark ages.

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MODERN ICELANDIC POETRY

BY SIGURÐUR A. MAGNUSSON

Despite many and diverse foreign influences, Icelandic poetry has to a remarkable degree preserved its ancient traditions. There is an unbroken line from Eddic and skaldic to present-day poetry. At the dawn of Icelandic history Eddic and skaldic poetry existed side by side; the former simple, direct, dramatic, the latter elaborate, artificial, factual. While both traditions have remained strong, there can be little doubt that it was the Eddic tradition which proved a more vital influence on more recent poetry.

The gap between the ancient traditions and modern poetry was bridged by a variety of highly productive forms of poetry, the most remarkable of which were the so-called *rimur*, verses composed of alliterative four-line stanzas, whose rhyme-schemes have become so elaborate that over two thousand varieties have been recorded. The *rimur* have much in common with skaldic verse, their real poetic value being scant. Religious poetry also was written in great quantities and reached its pinnacle in Hallgrímur Pétursson's (1614-1674) "Passion Hymns," which have been reprinted more than fifty times, an Icelandic publishing record. There were also numerous translations, many of them availing themselves of Eddic meters to reproduce foreign masterpieces, such as the *Odyssey*, *Paradise Lost*, and Pope's *Temple of Fame*.

Unlike Icelandic prose-writing, which was almost non-existent from the fourteenth to the nineteenth century, Icelandic poetry has always been vigorous

and singularly rich in quantity. As a matter of fact much of the old saga material was turned into verse during those centuries.

By an arbitrary division we may say that modern Icelandic poetry came into being early in the nineteenth century, when Romanticism made its debut in Iceland. This new poetic age was marked by a great emphasis on the past, on nationalism, on a new and purer diction, and on the natural beauty of Iceland.

The foremost, if not the first, spokesman of the Romantic age was Jónas Hallgrímsson (1807-1845), who in his poetry typified all the salient traits of that tradition. He revitalized the language, went back to Eddic lays in meter and diction, but also learned much from foreign poets, notably Schiller, Oehlenschläger and Heine, the last of whom he especially resembles. Along with three other students at the University of Copenhagen he started an important annual, *Fjölnir* (1835-1847), which in fact marked the beginning of a new and vital age in Icelandic literature. Besides being the most important poet of the nineteenth century, Jónas Hallgrímsson also made notable contributions to prose-writing and was a pioneer in literary criticism. He died prematurely from an accident in Copenhagen.

Icelandic poetry had a period of remarkable vigor and productivity during the remainder of the nineteenth century and well into the twentieth. The names of the significant poets of



Davíð Stefánsson

that period are too numerous to be listed here, but it can be said with considerable validity that probably not since the golden age of Eddic and skaldic poetry had Iceland seen such an upsurge in fine poetic production.

One name stands out from the latter part of the period, that of Einar Benediktsson (1864-1940), who in many ways was unique among Icelandic poets. He was a cosmopolitan *par excellence* and led a life more varied and interesting than any of his contemporaries. After a period of public service in Iceland, he traveled widely on three continents, lived for many years in England, and returned to Iceland to become the leading poet of his generation. He widened the horizons of Icelandic poetry by seeking his subject matter far and wide, abroad as well as at home, and became the herald of a

new age where progress and technology would bring Iceland to prosperity and modernism. He was simultaneously the most philosophical of Icelandic poets and has sometimes been called the Icelandic Browning. But he has other affinities as well. In his pantheistic poems he reminds one of Whitman, some of whose work he translated. And as the torchbearer of the machine age he at times calls to mind Hart Crane. Indeed the range of Einar Benediktsson's poetry is so wide that he cannot comfortably be put into any neat category. He was also an able translator, rendering into Icelandic such poets as Gray, Fitzgerald, Poe, as well as Ibsen's *Peer Gynt*, indeed a masterpiece of translation.

Although among the contemporary poets of Iceland there is no one remotely resembling Einar Benediktsson in stature, many of his successors are under his strong influence. He has emboldened younger poets to seek farther afield, for their subject. Two of our leading poets today are cosmopolitan in taste while remaining true to their national poetic heritage:

Davíð Stefánsson (b. 1895) won the hearts of most Icelanders, especially the younger generation, with his first collection *Svartar fjaðrir* (Black Feathers, 1919), where simplicity and naturalness are combined with a highly musical quality. Drawing richly on the folklore of his people, he was able to recreate some of the sad, mystical mood of his nation, even if his poetry is sometimes tinged with sentimentality. It was probably this last fact which made him so popular. But he has many strings in his lyre, does at times play gay or satirical tunes, and in some of his poems he reveals an embittered social conscious-

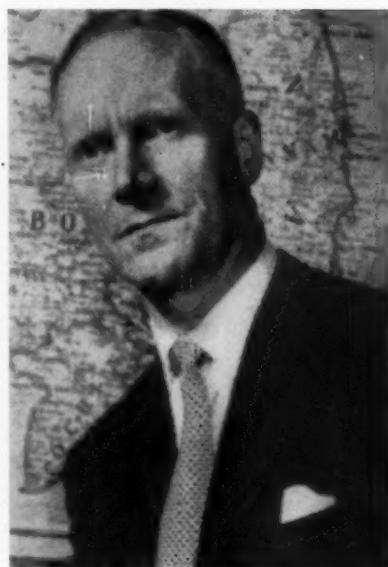
ness. His most enduring quality is, however, sorrow and sadness—lost loves and faded dreams.

Davíð Stefánsson brought a refreshing breeze into Icelandic poetry with his simplicity and musicality, and with several delicate poems from southern climates following a visit to Italy. His historical poems have also won him a special place among Icelandic poets. A Romantic at heart and a prolific writer, Davíð Stefánsson has had far-reaching influences on his contemporaries and is still the most popular poet in Iceland. His easily remembered poems, his best-selling novel, and his folklore-play have broken all previous records.

Tómas Guðmundsson (b. 1901) is the most accomplished formal master of our living poets. He is an esthete with an exquisite lyrical note and a dreamlike quality which sets him apart from his more robust and social-minded contemporaries. His books are few and far apart.

His first book in 1925 did not arouse much attention, but it showed great metrical skill coupled with a natural diction. His second volume, *Fagra veröld* (Beautiful World, 1933), established him at once as a major poet—fresh, personal, mature. The book sold out in a few months and a second printing was published before the year was out, unusual for a collection of poems. A third illustrated edition appeared in 1946. Many of his poems were translated into English and German, and most of them were published in France in 1939.

Fagra veröld is mainly an ode to good old Reykjavik, when the poet was younger and enjoyed the sights, sounds, and smells of the capital. It earned him that rare title "Reykjavíkurskáld"



Tómas Guðmundsson

(Poet of Reykjavik) and a travel grant from the city council which enabled him to visit Italy and the Mediterranean. The theme of the book is Time and its fickle nature, which only the poet's dreams of past joys and distant shores are able to conquer.

There is a great deal of humor in *Fagra veröld*, but there is even more in his next book, *Stjörnur vojsins* (Stars of Spring, 1940). Some of the poems call to mind the main themes of the earlier book, but there is more variety here, many poems being inspired by his Mediterranean tour. The salient trait of this book is humor and whimsicality:

Fljótið helga (The Holy River, 1950), Tómas's third volume, was written during and after World War II; and here is a fresh note. Sad memories, sweet dreams, and playful fancies have



Steinn Steinarr

given place to the oppressive reality of war, blood, tyranny, and madness. Of course many of the poems are in the old style, but the poet has also entered the present where he has since remained with half his heart. His main strength is the formal perfection which he has given to almost every poem.

While Davið Stefánsson and Tómas Guðmundsson are traditionalists, even if they have found new themes and cleared new paths, Steinn Steinarr (*nom de plume* for Áðalsteinn Kristmundsson, b. 1908) may be said to be the first herald of a new age in Icelandic poetry, the modernistic age of experiment. Obviously there had been fruitful innovations and experiments before by poets like Jóhann Sigurjóns-

son and Jóhann Jónsson, but Steinn Steinarr came to be the first spokesman for a conscious formal revolution. The innovators are now universally called "atom-poets", a name probably originating with their detractors.

Steinn Steinarr started out as a semi-traditional poet but a political radical, he was the voice of the half-starved proletariat. In his first book *Rauður. loginn bránn* (Red Burned the Flame, 1934), he attacked the ruling order in sharp and satirical poems which were sometimes crude but always sincere. He also mingled exquisite lyricism with his social attacks, often quite successfully. There are many good poems in free verse in this first book, but the poet is evidently still under the influence of contemporary poets. Despite his social ardor there is already here a hint of the doubt that was to lead him to disillusion with all the beliefs of his younger days and make him one of the most outspoken critics of Communism.

In *Ljóð* (Poems; 1937) he appeared as a mature poet preoccupied with formal innovations and philosophical speculations. His outlook was pessimistic and even nihilistic, and this was to grow on him. It is even stronger in *Spor i sandi* (Tracks in the Sand, 1940), which is at the same time more experimental. But the gloom and the misery are relieved by the poet's delightful humor.

The theme of frustration ran also through *Ferð án fyrirheits* (Journey Without Promise, 1942), but here the poet achieves formal perfection. Most of the poems are metaphysical or abstract, but they are singularly successful. Steinn Steinarr has learned much from modern abstract painting and such foreign poets as Edgar Lee Mas-

ters, Carl Sandburg, Ezra Pound, and Artur Luñdkvist.

After the war he traveled in Scandinavia, England, and France and came home to write, in my opinion, his best book, a cycle of poems called *Tímjinn og vatnið* (The Time and the Water, 1948) which carried Archibald MacLeish's motto: "A poem should not mean, but be". That is a good description of this book. In it the poet is an undisputed master of his medium. These poems are at once abstract and tangible, each one like a precious gem, clear, sparkling, seductive.

It is obviously arbitrary to have chosen the three living poets just discussed. Other critics might prefer other poets, such as Guðmundur Böðvarsson, a farmer and a traditionalist, or Jóhannes úr Kötlum; a Communist who has most of his life been traditional but in later years turned with success to experimental poetry, or Jakob Thorlakson; a latter-day viking and traditionalist, or Jón úr Vör, a proletarian who has given us one of the best pictures of an Icelandic fishing village in the 1920's and 1930's. There are at least a score of other older poets who might have been mentioned, but space does not allow it here.

One of the most refreshing aspects of the literary scene in Iceland during the last decade is the revitalization of poetry at the hands of the younger generation. The quality of this poetry is nothing short of amazing and the quantity is enormous. Of poets younger than forty, there are at least ten who could easily measure themselves with the very

best young poets of other nations. Of this group Stefán Hörður Grímsson is probably the most brilliant, but close to him are Hannes Sigfussoh, Hannes Pétursson, and Þorsteinn Valdimarsson. All these poets are rather traditional, especially the last two, while the first two are more daring in their imagery and diction. Jón Óskar and Sigfús Daðason have brought foreign influences into Icelandic poetry, especially from France, and have added a fresh, delicate note to it. Jónas Svafári is in a way the most revolutionary young poet and the only real humorist. He stands with both feet in the present and deals with the burning questions of the day, as the title of his last book indicates. It was called "Radioactive Moons". In Matthias Johannessen Reykjavik has discovered a new eulogist, quite different from Tómas Guðmundsson, modern in every sense of the word.

As to the trend of modern Icelandic poetry, the younger generation seems to be heading for other fields than their predecessors. In an anthology of recent poetry, published in 1954, where twenty poets were represented, only seven used traditional forms, while nine used free verse only, but four used both. This seems to indicate that the formal revolution started by Steinn Steinarr has been far-reaching. Obviously free verse is not here to stay any more than other forms. New forms will evolve out of the present ones, for no art survives by being static. But there can be little doubt that the innovations of the last two decades have been the chief factors in the renaissance of modern Icelandic poetry.

Sigurður A. Magnússon is an Icelandic writer and critic, who recently returned to Iceland after spending some years in the U. S. A. Both a new novel of his and a collection of poetry will be published this year. He is at present the chief literary critic on the Reykjavik daily, Morgunblaðið.



A view of Lake Gjende and the surrounding mountains.

JO·GJENDE

The Lone Hunter of the Jotunheim Mountains

BY GUNNAR RAABE

THAT THE MOUNTAINS bring out a man's best and most manly qualities is a truism which has been proved time and time again. That is pre-eminently the case in Norway, where many of the nation's greatest men have spent much of their time in the mountains, either skiing, hunting, or just hiking.

It was in the Norwegian mountains that Fridtjof Nansen gained the strength and experience that stood him in good stead when he crossed Greenland on skis in 1888 and later when he made his attack on the North Pole by

boat and by skis. Nansen's ski tracks traversed all the mountains of Norway, partly for the joy of touring and partly for the pleasure of hunting the reindeer and the elk.

Roald Amundsen, too, was a man who loved the mountains. Of his mountain journeys, the best known is the tour he made forth and back across Hardangervidda, the vast mountain plateau in central Norway, without seeing a single person or finding any place where he could seek shelter. That trip was over 100 miles long and lasted eight days. Thus one becomes a man!

*Jo Gjende.*

But it has not only been Norway's arctic explorers who have felt themselves attracted to the mountains. Authors and composers, as for instance, Bjørnstjerne Bjørnson, Henrik Ibsen, and Edvard Grieg, not infrequently went on hikes and longer journeys in the mountains. And this in spite of the fact that at that time there were only very primitive shelters, like chalets and stone huts, to be found! The mountains and the people living there often came to serve as motifs for their literary and musical works.

But the one who loved the mountains more than all the rest, was the famous Jo Gjende. A hunter and outdoorsman, he lived most of his life in a small log

cabin at Gjendeøset, high up in the mountain massif of central Norway. Fridtjof Nansen writes about him:

"I came from Eastern Norway and its wide, peaceful valleys. I came from the melancholy fairy-tale world of the big forests, across the Espedal Lakes and the valley of Sikkilsdal.

"It was evening.

"Suddenly I stood in a gap in the mountains and looked down at Gjende. Way down the shining greenish-blue ribbon extended throughout the bottom of the giant crevice, between the towering snow-capped peaks that wildly press forward and surround you. The Melkedal mountains and their jagged white peaks rising against the evening



A view of Lake Gjende and Bessvatn, with the mountain ridge Bessøggen.

sky in west. It is as if the whole of Jotunheimen has suddenly closed in on you, opens its giant gates for your soul and casts a spell over it.

"Involuntarily I remained standing there, it was as if I had to say "We meet again" in greeting to the world of the glaciers.

"It was among these mountains that old Jo Gjende lived and worked. He was a strange sprout from the very depth of the Norwegian national character; he was one of the real mountain men who disdain life in the lowlands and become legendary figures while they are still among the living. Down there by the lake still stands his cabin which he built himself. It is said that he all alone transported the huge stone slabs

that support the walls against the wind.

"To this place he would come, across the mountain plateaus, and often in the middle of winter, alone, with the necessities of life on a ski-sled. Here he lived, often for months on end, year after year, preferably in the winter-time with his lonesome self, with his guns, and with nature.

"Here he went on his lonely hunts, for ptarmigan and reindeer, and the mountains have been silent witnesses to many of his exploits. If he once had begun to chase a buck, he kept it up night and day until it fell from exhaustion.

"He was tough and tenacious and knew how to take care of himself. His opinions were as self-made as were his guns; no one else could do it well enough. But then he seldom missed an aim or the goal he had set himself. He lay in his cabin, during the long winter evenings, reading Voltaire and pondering the riddles of existence, until he left the main road of dogmas, —in this respect also he did not want to walk with the people of the lowlands.

"Now he has left us for the hills of the great beyond."

Yes, Jó Gjende, the mountaineer, the recluse, and the great hunter, was exactly like that. Nansen never met him, but all that he heard about him, from the people of the mountains, was indelibly impressed on his mind. Jo Gjende and Fridtjof Nansen had very much in common: each relied to a greater extent on his own reason than on the old traditions which he learned in school. Both preferred a life in solitude, surrounded by Norway's mighty mountains, to living among people whose second-hand opinions



Jo Gjende's cabin at Gjendeoset.

they scorned: Jo Gjende and Fridtjof Nansen would indeed have become fast friends.

Jo Gjende was born in 1794, on the farm Kleppø in the district of Vågå. His childhood was not overly happy, as he early lost both his parents, and all the children were sent to foster homes among relatives. In time Jo ended up with his aunt who owned the big farm Heringstad in Heidal.

When the pastor traveled through the district he was a welcome guest at Heringstad. He would continue his journey the next day and little Jo had to run alongside keeping up with the horse in order to open the many gates, all the way to the next place for change of horses. Since the pastor was also known as a man who liked his drinks, it is small wonder that Jo's regard for the clergy was not his chief admiration.

Jo was very useful on the farm, and his strength made him known far and wide. He was indeed conceded to be the most powerful young man in the whole valley of Gudbrandsdal. He liked farming well enough, but he did not fare so well when his aunt gave him a sum of money so that he could become a cattle trader. Jo was not well-suited to haggling and sharp business practices, nor to discussing the prices of cows and goats for hours on end. Already then, he was a hard, and proud man, who had the courage of his convictions, and for whom it was not easy to conform.

The farmers did not like Jo, and he did not like them. He was too independent to suit them, and his opinions were usually exactly the opposite of what most people thought. The worst thing about him, they thought, was that he never was seen

inside a church. From early childhood he had much distrust of the pastor and the teacher, and of the school whose only aim was to teach the children to read the Bible and know by rote the catechism and the hymns. And his schoolmates never let him be in peace, but teased him because he was the son of a drunkard. Then Jo became angry and his blows often left their mark on his tormentors.

At the age of forty, Jo Gjende settled down for good in the mountains of Jotunheimen. He lived at first in a small cabin in the valley of Væodalæn, but later on in a cabin he built at Gjendeosæt. This cabin is still standing exactly the way it was in Jo's time. It is not very big, about 3 meters by 2 meters, and it is so low under the ceiling that one has to bend down to get through the door. Here he stayed the greater part of the year. Only once in a while he took a trip down to the valley in order to exchange reindeer skins for food. But his food for the most part came from the wild animals he shot himself, and a surer shot than he was not to be found. He either made his own gun barrels or he might travel all the way to the valley of Østerdal to buy a gun that he was entirely satisfied with. He often entertained himself with shooting at a target and impressed visitors with his marksmanship.

But Jo was not only a great hunter and an excellent shot. He must have had a brilliant mind, and would most surely have been placed in the front rank among the great thinkers and philosophers if he had been able to elect such a career in his early youth. Perhaps it was his passionate love of the mountains that prevented his great

intellectual gifts from being fully utilized. In his early youth he most probably would have been unable and even less willing to imagine himself as a student in the big city.

And even if he had wanted to, he would hardly have had an opportunity to study. In those days the only way for poor children to get ahead was for the pastor or another leader in the district to take notice of such a hidden genius, and pay for his board and tuition for higher education in Christiania, as Oslo was called at that time. But Jo's behavior and independent mind were not of the type that would invite any of the well-to-do to help him. On the contrary, he was no doubt looked upon as something of a pariah, and he would most surely have refused any help of that kind.

But during the long winter evenings in his little cabin in Jotunheimen he used to study the works of the world's great thinkers. He got hold of books by Voltaire and Volney, and soon he was known as a free-thinker and a priest-hater. He was of the opinion that the Bible was only fiction and legend, an invention of the clergy, who used it as a means to keep the common man securely tethered and could thus live in ease on the fees and tithes that gullible people had to pay them. Nature was Jo's Bible. He knew and understood nature better than any one else, and drew from it conclusions about the earth and evolution that were later confirmed by the investigations of scientists. He found old shore lines way up in the mountains, he studied glacial erosion from the Ice Age, and dug up old roots from the bogs.

Besides the works on philosophy, he liked best to read the comedies and

*Gjendebu.*

other writings by Ludvig Holberg. He thought Holberg to be one of the greatest writers of all time, and knew long passages from his works by heart.

Jo Gjende both liked and disliked having people visit him. If someone came and was very inquisitive about his personal affairs, he withdrew into his shell, grabbed his rifle and set off for the mountains. But if his visitors were learned men, and this happened rather often, they were well received. In fact, tourists and mountaineers of those days were usually students or teachers at the University. They were the only ones who had the time and the opportunity to go on such excursions, and there were many among them who had heard about this strange and well-read hermit at Gjende and laid their course by Gjendeoset in order to meet him.

And many were the discussions that went on in front of the fireplace in the small cabin. Jo was in great form when he got an opportunity to air his views in the company of men who, to his mind, had the ability to reason and think independently. Whether they agreed with him or not did not matter much. As a matter of fact, he preferred to talk with people who disagreed with him and whom he could drive into a corner. Theologians especially fared badly and had great difficulty in answering his pointed questions, formed in his keen mind. Then he enjoyed himself, and the visitor was treated royally, with reindeer steak and other tasty dishes, of which there was no lack in Jo's cabin. Many a friendship for life was made at that fireplace, most often of course, with those who had viewpoints similar to his own.



The monument on Jo Gjende's grave.

Jo also took a great interest in politics. He was a convinced liberal and thought highly of Johan Sverdrup, the leader of the "Left" or Liberal party. Independence and freedom for the people, without economic or other restrictions, was the nation's goal in Jo's opinion. Under other circumstances he might have become an outstanding politician and member of Parliament, that is, provided he would have been able to fall in line with a program staked out by a political party.

When the first folk school was opened by Christoffer Bruun at Sel in 1864, Jo was one of the many that were extremely pleased with this enterprise. And in spite of Bruun's being a minister, Jo admired him greatly. In this connection it is tempting to draw a

parallel between Bjørnstjerne Bjørnson and Jo Gjende. Both were zealous radicals, both fought against the power of religion over the oppressed common people, both were highly in favor of the folk school movement, and both were influenced by Christoffer Bruun to a very great extent; even though they in some ways were opposed to his ideas. What a meeting that might have been: Bjørnson and Jo Gjende! But it is most likely that sooner or later they would have fallen out, both being somewhat disputatious and combative.

In 1855 two Englishmen came on a visit to Jo. Both Sir John Blackwell and Mr. Rathbone were immensely enthusiastic about the scenery around Gjende and the strange recluse living there. And the visit, which was supposed to last a few days, was extended to the better part of a year! For these world travelers Jo Gjende became the ideal man, and they tried to emulate him in everything, in both thought and action.

Together they enjoyed an exhilarating outdoor life, during summer as well as winter. They fished for trout in the Gjende lake, and they hunted reindeer and ptarmigan. It is told that they used to cut a hole in the ice in order to take a refreshing bath after returning from the lofty world of the Jotunheim mountains. The little cabin was a rather confining place, but what did that matter? If the table became too black and dirty, Jo just scraped and planed the top and it was as good as new!

The two strangers also became well-known in the entire district of Vågå. Blackwell married the prettiest girl in the whole region; her name was Marit, and she lived on the old farm of Sve-

near Vågåmo, which now serves as quarters for tourists. Blackwell bought the big farm Kljones, where Jo Gjende became a frequent and welcome guest. The two friends always showed up at shooting matches, and Jo was always the winner. Once he won a Kongsberg rifle as a prize, at which time he was greatly honored by all the participants. It was no doubt one of the happiest days of his life.

When he was past middle age, Jo bought a small mountain farm named Brurosten in the upper part of the valley of Heidal. Here he would stay during the better part of the winter. He was a capable farmer and put up new buildings on his property. But he was not very lucky when he tried

to get a good wife for his farm; it seems the young women of the district thought he had lived a too frivolous life to make a good husband. But Jo got along without a wife, and his farm was always in tip-top shape.

Jo lived till the ripe old age of 89, sound of mind and body until the very last. He lies buried in the cemetery of the Vågå church, and on his grave the Norwegian Tourist Association has placed a monument to his memory. On the upper part of the stone is seen a flock of wild reindeer cavorting in the mountains, and below appears a quotation from the poetry of Aasmund Vinje, which reads in translation:

I am as you well know a highland man
and take to the mountains as oft' I can.

Gunnar Raabe has been a hiker and a mountaineer for over forty years. He is an inspector for the Norwegian Tourist Association and has written and lectured about the pleasures of touring in the mountains of Norway.

TO KILL A CHILD

A SHORT STORY

BY STIG DAGERMAN

Translated from the Swedish by Kenneth G. Chapman

It is a fine day and the rising sun shines down on the plain. The church-bells will soon begin to ring, for it is Sunday. Two boys have found a path between two rye fields which they have never walked along before, and in the three towns on the plain window-panes are sparkling in the sun. Men are shaving in front of mirrors on kitchen tables and humming women are cutting bread for breakfast, and children are sitting on floors and buttoning up their shirts. It is the happy morning of an evil day, for on this day a child in the third town is going to be killed by a happy man. The child is still sitting on the floor buttoning up his shirt, and the man who is shaving is saying that today they will take a trip in the rowboat down the river, and the woman is humming and piling the freshly cut bread on a blue plate.

No shadow falls over the kitchen and the man who is going to kill the child is still standing beside a red gasoline pump in the first town. He is a happy man who is aiming a camera and in the range-finder he sees a small blue car and beside the car a young laughing girl. While the girl is laughing and the man is taking the beautiful picture, the gas station attendant is screwing the cap back on the gas tank and saying that they are going to have a fine day. The girl gets into the car and the man who is going to kill the child takes his wallet out of his pocket and says that

they are going to the seashore and at the seashore they are going to rent a boat and row far, far out. Through the rolled-down windows the girl in the front seat of the car can hear what he is saying, she dozes, and while she is dozing she sees the sea and the man beside her in the boat. He is not a bad man, he is glad and happy and before he gets into the car he stands for a moment in front of the radiator which is shining in the sun and enjoys the sparkle and the smell of gasoline and cherry blossoms in the air. No shadow falls over the car and the shiny fender has no dents in it, nor is it red with blood.

But at the moment that the man in the car in the first town slams the car door and presses the starter, the woman in the kitchen in the third town opens her cupboard and finds no sugar. The child, which has finished buttoning its shirt and tying its shoes, is kneeling on the sofa and looking at the river, which winds its way among the alders, and at the black skiff pulled up on the grass. The man who is going to lose his child has finished shaving and is folding up the mirror. On the table are coffee cups, bread, cream, and flies. The only thing lacking is sugar, and the mother tells the child to run over to Larsson's and borrow a few lumps. And as the child opens the door, the man calls after it to hurry, for the boat is ready down on the beach and they are going to row farther than they have ever

rowed before. As the child is running through the garden its thoughts are on the river and on the fish that bite, and no one whispers to it that it has but eight minutes left to live and that the boat will lie there where it is lying all that day and many more days.

It is not far to Larsson's, it is just across the road, and while the child is running across the road, the small blue car is driving through the second town. It is a small town with small red houses and newly-arisen people who are sitting in their kitchens with their coffee cups raised and who see the car speed by on the other side of the hedge with a high cloud of dust behind it. It is going very fast and the man in the car sees the poplars and the newly-tarred telephone poles flash by like gray shadows. Summer sends its breath in through the car windows, they speed out of the town, they drive easily and safely in the middle of the road and they are alone on the road—yet. It is nice to drive completely alone on a soft, wide road and out on the plain it is even better. The man is happy and strong and against his elbow he feels the body of his woman. He is not a bad man. He is in a hurry to get to the seashore. He wouldn't hurt a fly, but nevertheless he is soon going to kill a child. As they speed toward the third town, the girl closes her eyes and makes believe that she will not open them again until they can see the sea, and she dreams in rhythm with the car's soft rocking of how it will lie shimmering before them.

For life is so unmercifully planned that one minute before a happy man kills a child he is still happy, and one minute before a woman screams in terror she can be dozing and dreaming about the sea; and during the last min-

ute in a child's life the child's parents can be sitting in a kitchen waiting for sugar and talking about their child's white teeth and a trip in a rowboat, and the child itself can close a gate and start to cross a road with a few lumps of sugar wrapped in a piece of white paper in its right hand and all during this last minute see nothing but a long, shimmering river and large fish and a broad skiff with silent oars.

Afterwards everything is too late. Afterwards a blue car stands at an angle across the road, and a screaming woman takes her hand away from her mouth and the hand is bleeding. Afterwards a man opens a car door and tries to stand on his feet although he has a cavern of horror inside him. Afterwards a few white lumps of sugar lie meaninglessly strewn out amid blood and gravel, and a child lies motionless on its stomach with its face pressed hard against the road. Afterwards two pale people, who still have not been able to drink their coffee, come running out through a gate and see a sight on the road which they will never forget. For it is not true that time heals all wounds. Time does not heal a dead child's wounds, and it heals very poorly the suffering of a mother who forgot to buy sugar and sent her child across the road to borrow some, and it also heals very poorly the anguish of a once happy man who killed it.

For he who has killed a child does not drive to the seashore. He who has killed a child drives slowly home in silence and beside him sits a mute woman with a bandaged hand, and in all the towns through which they pass they do not see a single happy person. Every shadow is very dark and when they part it is still in silence, and the man who

has killed the child knows that this silence is his enemy and that it will take years of his life for him to defeat it by shouting that it was not his fault. But he knows that this is a lie, and in his nightly dreams he will long to be

given back just one single minute of his life in order to make that one single minute different.

But so unmerciful is life toward him who has killed a child that everything afterwards is too late.

Stig Dagerman was regarded as one of Sweden's most talented and promising writers at the time of his premature death at the age of 31 in 1954. One of his novels, "A Burnt Child", and one play, "The Condemned" have been translated into English.

SWEDISH FISHING VILLAGE

BY ERIC SELLIN

A LONG the shore the fishing boats that day
Nodded at their wharves, tall spindle masts
Wrapped with patched sails familiar with the way
Of winds and, although shredded by the blasts
Of gales, they seemed asleep as they would sway
In counterpoint: wooden iconoclasts
Of unison. Sometimes the moment lasts
Forever when one stands above a bay.

For I continued upwards on the path
Strewn gray with powder from the crumbled stones
Above the sea's vast polished cenotaph

Where in the sunlight there were overtones
Of death so dun and subtle in their wrath
That their song seemed to whisper from white bones.

THE BOTTOMLESS PIT

A SHORT STORY

BY GUÐMUNDUR DANIELSSON

Translated from the Icelandic by Mekkin S. Perkins

THIS IS THE STORY of the bog, the bottomless pit, and the boy.

"My dad," said the milkmaid as she stood up and lifted the pail full of ewes' milk from the ground, "loosen the band and open the gate. I've finished."

In silence the boy obeyed. While the ewes ran out through the open gate, he stood beside the rail waiting until the pens were empty. Then he rambled off after the sheep. He was ten years old. It was his duty to tend the sheep.

"La, la, la. La, la, la," he hummed as he sauntered after the ewes, dangling a rope in one hand, off and on striking the tops of the hummocks with it. He was crossing the hills to the south of the farmhouse where the sedge grows in brownish green tufts. This is the main vegetation of the region, this and the moss. On and on the boy trots. No one ever thinks of stopping here, as may be seen from the many, intermingling footpaths. Every foot that crosses the hills is bound for a better place.

And what of the bog with the bottomless pit? Who knows it as well as the boy? No one. No one at all. Although at some time you may possibly have been there, you no longer remember anything about it, anything but the rusty red clay, the spongy moss and the ugly bareness of it. The boy remembers that too. But he remembers much, much more. Every summer, year after year, the bog with the bottomless

pit has been his whole world, and, truth to tell, neither you nor I have a greater world though we live in a city—perhaps even Einstein himself had no greater world in America. So great a world the bog is to those who know it well.

Now the boy has reached his destination. He stands on the crest of the hill and looks out over the bog. It is not a large bog. It is hemmed in by hills on all sides. Nowhere is a house to be seen, or any other man-made structure—only the rounded crests of the surrounding hills.

The boy stands for a long time, allowing the ewes to spread out far and wide. At last his own precious day is beginning.

Nearby is a spot covered with tall rushes, which stand out against the surroundings, a mixture of blue and green and black, as if all combed together. There the boy sat so long yesterday weaving toy "skyr" strainers. He wove thirty-two of them in all, using more than a thousand straws. The day before that he stayed by the pools, weaving toy braids. What should he do today? Build birds' nests? Pick snails from the depressions left where his father had dug up the sod? Watch the spider build its palace on the field by the quagmire? Any one of these activities would be fine. Best of all, however, is another idea, the one he has not yet put into words.

The boy walks towards the east,

picking his way over the bog, slowly, cautiously, keeping his eyes on the ground. He must go slowly, for he is barefooted and the bog has to be crossed with care. Hidden deep in the hummocks are many sharp, needlelike points that would prick one's feet sorely, the dwarf birch here, the rushes there, not to mention the yellow-footed spider, larger than an ox and fiercer than a lion. Safest are the sedge quagmires, shallow and soft and marvelously warm in the sunshine.

The boy now reaches the middle of the bog, wades through one more sedge pool and goes around a hole filled with red mud. And of a sudden, he has arrived. He stands on the brink of the bottomless pit.

The bottomless pit! How often has he not stood here, drawn by the magnetism of the place, repelled by the fear of the pit, yet attracted by a compelling curiosity to see what it contained. What is that? That thing down there in front of him? It is an eye, a dark blue eye with lids of yellow moss staring up at him and trying to hypnotize him. Suppose that some day it should succeed? What then? Then, —then there would be no boy to drive the ewes home from the hills at night, and down there in the darkness of the pit, far down in the bowels of the bog, a little body would lie motionless forever. Is that perhaps what the bottomless pit wants of him?

Silence.

Fear tugs at his heart, trying to pull him away, while enticing curiosity pulls in the opposite direction. Now something rushes past his ears, something stirs in the sedge behind him. It is the breeze. The breeze is blowing from the south across the bog, breaking its

dark waves into a thousand wavelets. But not for long. The next second a calm heals the break.

"Now it is clear, the eye," the boy thinks to himself and he moves a little closer. Seldom has he seen the bottom of the pit more clearly than at this very moment. What is that moving down there in the darkness? Oh! Oh! Bugs! Beetles from the folklore, beetles that spoil the water. There are twelve of them, swimming upwards towards the sunshine. The boy covers his mouth with one hand, with the other he grips his rope more tightly. Now the bugs have reached the surface. Do they intend to fly all the way up to the sky and hurt the sun? No, not that. Not that at all. They stop at the surface of the water, turn upside down and dive again. A tiny shining star seems to stick to each gleaming black body and disappear into the depths along with it.

"They are fetching the sunshine and taking it along down into the depths, so that it will not be so pitch dark down there," thinks the boy, breathing more easily. "Or has someone sent them? But who?" No one can answer that question. Who knows what is hidden down there in the bog? Once again the wind is blowing, now from the north, and once again the eye of the bog is broken and blinded. This happens time and again without end; change follows change.

Unfortunately, the boy no longer has the time to think about such matters. He must tend to his sheep. They are now scattered far and wide. He must gather them together or they might get lost. And so he trots off in search of them.

He drives them to the edge of the

bog and there comes to a halt. The sheep soon lie down, shut their eyes and chew their cud. Out here in the pasture life is peaceful. The boy, too, is entitled to a little rest, he thinks. And so he climbs up a slope to a dry hollow covered with wood crane's bill and lady's mantle.

"Lullu-bia, lullu-bia." "Who is that humming?" the boy asks himself. "Who is that humming?"

"It is I," answers the breeze. "I am singing a lullaby to the wood crane's bill and the lady's mantle."

"And now my ewes are asleep—every-thing is asleep except the bottomless pit, the eye of the bog," the boy may think, and the wind may answer:

"I can sing you a lullaby too, my golden-haired one. But the wood-crane's bill and the lady's mantle—they are my very own flowers."

The boy lies down among the flowers, turns his eyes towards the east and gazes across the bog. It is all green—a light green, a bluish green, a yellowish green. To this the rushes add their color, also the cotton grass. And yet the bog would be very ordinary were it not for its eye. Without its eye it would be an insignificant, harmless bog, which would never call to anyone, either in waking or sleeping hours.

The boy has fallen asleep; one cheek resting on his hands. In his sleep he dreams. What is he dreaming today? Who knows? Maybe the sedge in the swamp knows. Is the boy dreaming that he sits by a pool weaving braids of golden sedge, that he is weaving toy "skyr" strainers of silver? He may be dreaming that. But there may be more to his dream. Last year he dreamed that a white horse with wings came flying from beyond the hills and

jumped right down into the bottomless pit. When he woke up, he was sure the horse must have been an elfin mare, and he was not sorry that it died. But from that day on, he feared the bottomless pit more than ever. There is no telling what he is dreaming today.

The days pass one by one. The summer passes, and the grayish pallor of autumn gradually spreads over the bog. The bog changes from day to day; everything changes with the coming of autumn—everything but the bottomless pit. In deathly silence it continues to stare up into the daylight, casting its influence over it: alluring curiosity, vague fear.

Then one evening in September the boy stands on the brink of the bottomless pit for the last time that season, looking down into its dark depths.

"Death," he thinks of a sudden, "that is Death itself looking up at me. It dwells down there at the bottom of the pit, calling and calling to me. But it shall not get me!"

Death in the pit did not get the boy, for Life held him by the hand and kept him from falling in. Life merely allowed him to approach Death—to learn to recognize its presence and feel the mysterious chill it breathes into the human breast. What a relief to turn one's back on it! What joy to flee from it and escape!

For two more summers the boy watched over his sheep on the green bog. Every day was a new story, and yet always the same story: a drama in which Life and Death struggled to get him, and Life was precious because Death had a part in it. But at the end of the haying season that year a great change took place. In the dark one night a riding pony belonging to

the boy's father went too near the edge of the bottomless pit and fell in. The next morning it was found there—dead.

"If only I had filled in that pit last year, as I intended!" the boy's father said. He took one of the farmhands along and together they filled the pit with dirt. "Never again will you be the death of anyone!" he said when they had finished.

What did the boy say to that? Nothing. He was silent. But a great and strange change came over him.

He no longer yearned to visit the bog. It no longer called to him. It had lost its attraction and its meaning for him. To be sure, he made a few more trips to it, but he walked over it as a stranger, for the bog no longer was the bog it had been. The bottomless pit was gone, the deep, mysterious eye, the fear in the heart and the compelling curiosity, death—death. Yes, all that was gone, and at the same time the magic wonders of life had disappeared.

Now the boy is searching for them elsewhere:

Guðmundur Danielsson is a well-known Icelandic author, who has several novels, two volumes of short stories and a book of poems to his credit.



SCANDINAVIANS IN AMERICA

To the 100th anniversary celebration of Minnesota's admission to the union as the thirty-second state the Nordic countries sent a delegation comprising Prince Bertil of Sweden, Princess Astrid and Prime Minister Einar Gerhardsen of Norway, the Danish Premier and Foreign Minister, H. C. Hansen, and Finland's Prime Minister, Reino Kuusikoski. The three Premiers were accompanied by their wives. The five Ambassadors in Washington, and their wives, in addition to other officials, were also members of the delegation. It was the first time that the five Nordic countries have participated jointly with special delegates in an American jubilee celebration.

After forty years in Swedish diplomatic service, ten of them as chief of mission in Washington, D. C., Ambassador Erik Boheman will return to private life this summer, two years before reaching the statutory retirement age. When his resignation, effective on June 30, had been accepted by the Swedish government, it was announced that he had been elected a member of the board of the Stockholms Enskilda Bank, one of the country's leading commercial banks.

Mr. Boheman, who was born in 1895, entered the foreign service in 1918 as an attaché at the Swedish Legation in Paris. Ten years later he became chief of the political bureau of the Foreign Office in Stockholm. After having served as envoy first to Turkey and Bulgaria and then to Greece, Poland and Rumania, he was in 1938 appointed Under Secretary of the Foreign Of-

fice, a post he held until the end of the war. During that period he was Sweden's chief delegate at a number of vitally important trade negotiations. In 1945 he went to Paris as chief of mission, two years later he became Ambassador to the Court of St. James's, and in 1948 he was appointed Ambassador to the United States. From Washington he has undertaken many tours of the country, speaking at numerous meetings and making the personal acquaintance of thousands of Americans. Mr. Boheman has been a delegate both to the League of Nations and the United Nations.

Maj. Gen. Leif J. Sverdrup, who came to U.S.A. at the age of 16, received a citation from Secretary of the Army Wilber M. Brucker upon his retirement as Commander, 102nd Infantry Division, U. S. Army Reserve. About 2,000 officers and men saluted Gen. Sverdrup in St. Louis, Mo.

Dr. Hannes Alfvén, professor of electronics at the Stockholm Institute of Technology, recently received the John Ericsson Gold Medal of the American Society of Swedish Engineers in New York. A member of the board of the Swedish Atomic Energy Company, he is at present conducting research on hydrogen power. The John Ericsson Gold Medal, established in 1926, is awarded every other year to a Swedish citizen or an American citizen of Swedish descent, in recognition of eminent merits in the technological or scientific fields.



Norwegian Inf. Off.

*Paul Gruda Koht,
Norway's new Ambassador to the U.S.A.*

Paul Koht, Norway's new ambassador to the U. S., arrived in Washington, D. C. on March 2. A few days later he presented his credentials to President Eisenhower at the White House.

Ambassador Hans Engen, Norway's permanent delegate to the United Nations, has been appointed Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. Sivert A. Nielsen, presently Under-Secretary of State for Defense Affairs, has been named new Ambassador to U. N.

Now 46, Mr. Engen has served as head of Norway's Permanent Mission to the United Nations since 1952. He was previously Counselor of the Mission, 1951-52, and Press Attaché from 1949 to 1951. Before joining the For-

eign Service, he was Foreign Editor of *Verdens Gang*. During the war, he maintained liaison between the Home Front and the Norwegian government in London.

The noted Swedish sculptress and ceramist Tyra Lundgren held a comprehensive exhibition of her works February 26-March 8 at Bonniers in New York. Collections of hers have been shown in Stockholm, Helsinki, Paris, Milan, London, San Francisco, Montreal, and Mexico City. Regarded as one of the foremost ceramic artists in Europe today, artistically as well as technically, Mrs. Lundgren started out as a painter, studying at the Royal Academy of Art in Stockholm. Soon, however, she found sculpture a fuller way of expression, choosing as her medium clay fired into stoneware. She worked for a long period at the famous Arabia porcelain works in Helsinki, and later collaborated with leading glass works in Sweden, Czechoslovakia, and Italy. Her art is characterized by a soaring imagination, a dramatic technique, with a striking interplay of roughness and glazed surfaces, and by a persistent interest in depicting animal life, especially birds and tropical fishes. Some of her ornaments occupy entire walls in schools, crematories, and industrial plants. She is noted also as a portrait artist of great talent, and sometimes she has been active as a designer of textiles.

Two Swedish pioneers in polio research were, together with fifteen others including Franklin D. Roosevelt, honored with busts when the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis recently inaugurated its "Hall of Fame" at Warm Springs, Georgia. They were

Dr. Oskar Medin (1847-1927), who in 1887 gave the first detailed description of a polio epidemic and the acute stage of the disease, and his pupil Dr. Ivar Wickman (1872-1914), whose research clarified the nature of polio as an acute infection.

The 130th anniversary of the birth of Henrik Ibsen was commemorated in New York on March 20 with a program sponsored by the Scandinavian Society of Columbia University and Nordmanns-Forbundet's New York Chapter. Given at Columbia's Casa Italiana, the program included an address by Norwegian Consul General Thor Brodtkorb, piano solos by Niels, Johan Østbye, songs by Swedish baritone Karl Sjönesson, and readings from Ibsen's plays by the well-known scenic artists Mabel Taliaferro and Arvid Paulson.

The Melzer Gallery in New York from March 3 to 29 featured a retrospective exhibition of the works of Rolf Nesch on the occasion of his 65th birthday. Entitled "Rolf Nesch at Sixty-five", the exhibition included a number of the unique metal prints whose craftsmanship and artistic beauty have brought wide acclaim to this German-born Norwegian artist.

The entire personal library of Carl Sandburg, octogenarian poet and Lincoln biographer, whose parents came from Sweden, has been acquired by the University of Illinois, with the aid of the University of Illinois Foundation. The collection consists of books, manuscripts, and papers.

Professor Einar Haugen, Thompson Professor of Scandinavian Languages at the University of Wisconsin, has been invited by the English Language Ex-

ploratory Committee of Japan to be one of four American Senior Consultants in a seminar for teachers of English at Tokyo during the month of August. The purpose of the seminar will be to produce new materials in the field of English language teaching, and train a selected group of Japanese teachers in the use of these materials.

An exhibition called "Swedish Textiles Today" opened in the New National Museum Building in Washington, D. C., on April 19 and will afterward travel through the United States for more than a year. It has been assembled by the Swedish Society for Industrial Design, and shows the latest industrial textiles made by leading mills. The exhibit aims to illustrate the great versatility of Swedish decorative fabrics, with special emphasis on their use in modern interior decoration. A score of prominent designers are represented. The participating manufacturers are Nordiska Kompaniet, or NK, Scandinavia's largest department store, which maintains a modern textile studio, Almedal-Dahlsjöfors, the Kasthall Carpet Company, and the Stockholm Cotton Spinning and Weaving Company. From Washington the exhibition will move to the Currier Gallery in Manchester, New Hampshire, where it opens on July 7, and then it will be shown in the Museum of Contemporary Crafts in New York, beginning on September 25. Next year it will travel to San Francisco via Minneapolis and other cities, and after that it will circulate among museums in the southern states. "Swedish Textiles Today" will make its tour under the auspices of Smithsonian Institution in Washington.

THE QUARTER'S HISTORY



ON FEBRUARY 1, the Danish Premier and Foreign Minister Hans Christian Hansen had occasion to celebrate his third anniversary as prime minister, a rare event by Danish standards which, however, was not noted by any official festivities.

ON FEBRUARY 10, Danish ambassador in Moscow, A. Mørch, handed over to Vice Foreign Minister A. V. Zakharov Denmark's answer to the latest two letters from the then Soviet Premier, N. Bulganin. In the lengthy answer, Premier Hansen pointed out among other things the Danish government's strong desire that negotiation about a disarmament agreement with efficient international control be started as soon as possible. He also stressed Denmark's interest in plans for a summit meeting after adequate preparations. With respect to Bulganin's warning about "serious consequences" for Denmark, if the Danish government should consent to let foreign countries establish bases on Danish territory for "aggressive purposes", H. C. Hansen pointed out the purely defensive character of NATO and stressed that Denmark only participated in this alliance in order to secure her freedom and independence. As to Bulganin's suggestion about a neutral zone free of nuclear weapons comprising "all of Northern Europe" the Danish note said that Denmark took it for granted that also the northern parts of the Soviet Union would be comprised in such a region.

A PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE about the various schemes for economic integration of European countries took place on February 11. The debate was broadcast in radio and television and centered around two speeches held on February 6 in the Folketing by the Minister of Foreign Trade, Jens Otto Krag, and the Minister of Economics, Bertel Dahlgaard. The debate showed that the opposition parties agreed with the government that the time had not yet come for Denmark to decide in favor of one plan or the other but that Denmark should take part in future negotiations about the Free Trade Area as well as about a Nordic Customs Union.

EMIGRATION FROM DENMARK was greater in 1957 than at any time in this century, it was revealed by government officials. About 10,000 persons left Denmark for good last year. In contrast to the situation at the turn of the century, Australia rather than the United States attracts most Danish emigrants. Canada is number two and the United States number three. After that come Latin American countries and finally New Zealand.

THE WINDJAMMER *Danmark*, a training vessel, has returned from what well may have been her last voyage. Under the impact of the loss of the German sailing ship *Pamir* with 82 men and boys, nearly its entire complement, and under the impression that training on board sailing vessels is no longer called for in our age, Danish authorities have decided to let the *Danmark* ride at anchor permanently off the navigation-

school in Sønderborg as part of the facilities of that institute. However, certain shipowners who don't agree with this idea are trying to work out plans to take over the government-owned vessel in order to have her continue her career as a training ship in private hands.

DAÑISH ART has suffered an irreparable loss when Denmark's most outstanding painter through many generations, J. F. Willumsen, died on April 4 in his home in Cannes in southern France. He was 94 years old.

Willumsen has been an acknowledged force—rather than a leader—in Danish art ever since 1888. His unusually

strong temperament made him prefer Norway's rocky mountains and the strong light effects of southern France to the amiable Danish landscape and led him to spend most of his life abroad. Attracted during his younger years to social themes, largely under the impact of Norwegian painters like Christian Krohg and Edvard Munch, he was later influenced by French symbolism and expressionism. In Denmark, which he seldom visited, he was venerated by younger painters rather than idealized, and with the exception of "pessimists" like Jens Søndergaard, his influence was never strong. A museum with many of his works was opened in Frederiksværk in 1955.



ICELAND

ICELANDIC FOREIGN policy came under debate when Soviet Premier N. Bulganin wrote his famous letters to the heads of Governments of the NATO countries. His letter to Premier Hermann Jónasson included the suggestion that Iceland should become neutral and offered Soviet guarantees of such neutrality. This Premier Jónasson rejected, explaining why the Icelanders had joined NATO and still believed that membership in the Atlantic Alliance was their best guarantee of security. Jónasson further stated that the Icelanders would welcome any improvement in world conditions that might make the military defense of Iceland unnecessary. The present NATO

installations in Iceland are purely defensive, he stated, and there has been no talk of missiles or atomic weapons in Iceland.

IN MARCH there were new protests against the American military force in Iceland, sponsored by a new communist-front organization, this time adding the demand for neutrality in harmony with Premier Bulganin's suggestions. All this was on the occasion of the anniversary of the Alþing resolution of March 28, 1956, asking for the removal of the troops. This resolution was, after the events in Hungary, shelved by the present Government.

THE MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS in late January were a great victory for the Independence (Conservative) Party while the socialistic parties were the main

losers. The Conservative victory was greatest in Reykjavík, where they retained a comfortable majority, while the party won majorities in the Westman Islands, Keflavík, Sauðárkrúkur, and Stykkishólmur. The elections do not constitutionally affect the Government, but it was generally agreed that they represented a considerable loss of prestige to the left-wing coalition cabinet.

MARITIME JURISDICTION and fishing limits were again very much in the limelight in Iceland because of the United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, held in Geneva during the spring. Iceland showed its deep interest by sending both the Foreign Minister and the Fisheries' Minister as delegates to the opening of the conference; while a group of specialists also sent there included Ambassador Hans Andersen. It was made known that following the conference Iceland would extend its fishing limits. The Icelanders strongly supported a Canadian proposal for a 12-mile fishing limit, with the coastal states having exclusive fishing rights within such limits. This is vital to Iceland which depends more heavily upon fishing for its livelihood than any other free nation.

THE PLANS for a European Free Trade Area have been scrutinized very closely in Iceland, not only by the Government and its experts but also by business, industry, and farming. Should the Free Trade Area plans become reality it will be difficult for Iceland to decide for or against membership.

Both alternatives present difficulties and would require considerable changes in Iceland's economic situation. The Free Trade meetings at the OEEC in Paris have been attended several times by Minister for Industry Gylfi P. Gíslason, and also his alternate, Economist Dr. Jóhannes Nordal. Meanwhile the OEEC has shown its interest in Iceland's economy by a visit from the organization's head, M. René Sergent, and some members of his staff. The OEEC has initiated a special study of the possibilities of producing heavy water in Iceland by using thermal energy. Such an industry would be a welcome addition to the Icelandic economy.

HALLDÓR KILJAN LAXNESS' return from his trip around the world created great interest in Iceland. He traveled across the United States and the Pacific to China and after that to India, where he was a guest of the Indian Government. Of his impressions from the United States Mr. Laxness has spoken most about the Mormons and their institutions in Salt Lake City. It is suspected that he will deal with Mormons in a future work in connection with the first Icelandic settlers in Modern America, who were Mormon converts.

IF ANY ONE STILL CLINGS to the myth that Iceland is a country without crime, he had better revise his opinion. During the past year there were two murders committed, in both cases young men doing away with young women. There is, of course, no capital punishment, and the first of the two murderers got 16 years.



NORWAY

AT A CEREMONY in conjunction with the official opening of the Norwegian Parliament on January 20, King Olav V formally took the oath of office, pledging to govern Norway in accordance with the Constitution and the laws of the realm. The 54-year-old monarch repeated verbally the oath which he deposited in writing at a Cabinet meeting on September 21, 1957, a few hours after the death of his father, Haakon VII. Under the provisions of the Constitution, he automatically ascended the Throne.

Parliament President Oscar Torp, in greeting Olav V, said the King had always identified himself with the people and had shared their fate.

The event was attended by the 150 members of Parliament, Cabinet members, Chiefs of Foreign Missions, a small number of civilian and military officials, and four especially invited guests. The latter included former Parliament Presidents C. J. Hambro, G. Natvig, and Johan Wiik, as well as Martin Smøby, formerly President of the Norwegian Parliament's Lagting division.

Prior to its official opening, the Norwegian Parliament chose officers for the 102nd session and assigned its 150 members to the 13 standing committees. The composition of the new Storting, elected last fall, is as follows: Labor 78, Conservatives 29, Agrarians 15, Liberals 15, Christian People's Party 12, and Communists 1.

THE NORWEGIAN PARLIAMENT has unanimously voted to give an honorary

pension to C. J. Hambro. A Conservative representative from Oslo at 35 consecutive sessions, Mr. Hambro declined to run for re-election last fall. The motion to supplement his regular pension by 12,000 kroner annually was made by Parliament President Oscar Torp, on behalf of the six-member Presidium.

The last M. P. to be thus honored was Johan Nygaardsvold, Labor representative from 1916 to 1949 and Norway's Premier during World War II. At the suggestion of Mr. Hambro, he was unanimously awarded an honorary pension upon retiring as Premier.

C. J. Hambro has been a prominent politician and parliamentarian ever since 1919, when he won a seat for the first time. President of the defunct League of Nations from 1939 until 1946, and chairman of its Liquidation Committee; he has been a delegate to UN ever since its inception.

CROWN PRINCE HARALD of Norway, only son of King Olav V and the late Crown Princess Märtha, became 21 on February 21. The occasion was marked with speeches in Parliament, at the Cabinet meeting, and at a large dinner at the Royal Palace. Congratulations to the Crown Prince poured in from public officials and friends at home and abroad.

During the day, Parliament President Oscar Torp visited the Royal Palace to convey the assembly's warmest wishes to the Crown Prince on his 21st birthday. At the same time, the Crown Prince signed a written oath, pledging his allegiance to the Constitution and the laws of the land. After reaching his full age, the Crown Prince will be entitled and duty-bound to serve as Regent of the Realm whenever the King



Norwegian Information Service

King Olav V solemnly pledges allegiance to the Constitution at the ceremony opening Parliament on January 20, 1958.

is absent from the country or incapacitated by illness.

PREMIER EINAR GERHARDSEN in January told Soviet Premier N. Bulganin that the Norwegian government definitely favors negotiations to ease international tension. But such negotiations should be preceded by exploratory talks to assure positive results. As to Soviet criticism concerning Norway's acceptance of non-atomic rocket weapons from U.S.A., the Premier said this was a matter that must be decided by Norwegian authorities. Mr. Gerhardsen's reply to the letters he received from the Soviet Premier, under dates

of December 12, 1957, and January 8, 1958, was delivered in Moscow on January 27.

REPORTS from all along the western coast of South Norway showed that the annual fisheries for the fat, mature winter herring were a dismal failure this year—the poorest since 1926. Most of the 26,000 fishermen who participated tried to recapture their lost fortunes in the spring herring fisheries. These, however, did not come off to a very auspicious start. The cost of equipping the fishing fleet of some 2,600 purse-seiners and drift netters is estimated at about .125 million kroner.

SKIEN, prosperous capital city of Telemark province, in early spring began a series of celebrations to mark the 600th anniversary of the granting of its charter. Extending until late in the fall, the celebration includes four trade fairs featuring provincial industries. At the inaugural ceremony, Premier Einar Gerhardsen brought personal greetings from King Olav V, and Dr. Einar Østvedt talked about relations between Skien and its greatest native son, dramatist Henrik Ibsen.

WORLD-FAMED KIRSTEN FLAGSTAD has accepted an invitation to be chief of the newly established Norwegian Opera. Mme. Flagstad, who has been living quietly at her home in Kristiansand, was not among the 18 who had applied for the position. The former Metropolitan Opera star told reporters that she considered the appointment as "a very great honor. I am simply delighted. A Norwegian opera is something I have been fighting for all my life."

NORWEGIAN whaling expeditions in the Antarctic processed 530,520 barrels of oil from January 7 to March 1, as against 713,270 barrels in the same period of last year's whaling season.

NORWAY's population at the end of 1957 was 3,513,000, comprising 1,763,000 women and 1,750,000 men, an increase of some 35,000.

IN LONDON, in early March, Norwegian Foreign Minister Halvard Lange said that the Western nations should show greater flexibility in dealing with

the Soviet Union and should explore every opportunity for reaching an understanding. Addressing the Anglo-Norse Society, Mr. Lange stressed that the frightening new weapons, for which bases will be prepared in Western Europe, are strictly defensive counter-measures that have been forced upon the West by the incorporation of even more frightening weapons in the Soviet armed forces.

Urging every possible effort to ascertain whether a beginning can be made in the field of world disarmament, Mr. Lange declared: "We must never give up our attempts to persuade the leaders of the Soviet Union that they and their country have nothing to fear from the West. And our own future policies must clearly recognize the existence of widely differing economic, social and political systems, which must learn, not only to exist side by side, but to co-operate in the solution of humanity's many common problems.

"In order to probe every possibility for negotiations with the Soviet Union, we must even be ready to take certain security risks. But the Soviet leaders cannot expect the West to agree to steps which would materially change the present precarious balance of power before they have shown in action, and not in words only, that they are earnest in their professed desire for peace. The best proof the Soviet Union could give of their sincerity would be to stop writing long letters and memoranda and, instead, consent to quiet diplomatic preparations with a view to finding out whether there is prospect of agreement on any of the problems in the fields of disarmament and European security," Mr. Lange concluded.



THE SWEDISH Government favors the idea of a conference between the leading statesmen of the nations, including the heads of government, within the next few months, Prime Minister Tage Erlander stated in answer to a letter from the then Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Soviet Union, Nikolai Bulganin, of January 8. Sweden would not be unwilling to take part, if the leading great powers were agreed on the composition and tasks of such a conference and desired Sweden's participation. The meeting should preferably take place under the auspices of the United Nations. If real progress is to be made at a conference at the highest level, it would not appear realistic to place on the agenda all outstanding major questions. Instead, efforts should be made, by means of informal preparatory conversations between the governments of the leading states, to define and delimit the program for the discussions of the heads of government. With regard to the possibility of progress in the field of disarmament, in particular, it would be a step of extraordinary importance if the production of nuclear weapons could be stopped and an effective, controlled disarmament, covering both such weapons and conventional arms, could be achieved. A sober scrutiny of the circumstances actually prevailing shows that this goal can only be reached by stages. The Swedish Government finally expressed its fervent hope that as a result of the international discussion now begun it will be possible, in the first place, to break the deadlock where

the disarmament question rests following the proceedings at the latest session of the U. N. General Assembly.

THE TRADITION of keeping the national defense above partisan debate, established and welded during the Second World War, was vigorously maintained when the government, based on the Social Democratic party, and the three democratic opposition groups in February reached an agreement about the outline of a new defense organization. During the next fiscal year military expenditure will total about 2,700 million kronor, an increase of 200 million over the current annual rate of defense spending and of 400 million over the preliminary defense budget that was presented in January. These additional 400 million will be covered by new or higher taxes on gasoline, household consumption of electricity, cigarettes, liquor, beer, soft drinks, sugar, and lottery prizes. From the fiscal year 1959-60 the defense budget will be permitted to increase by 2.5 per cent annually to compensate for higher costs which are due to technological developments, and there will also be compensation for a rise in the general price level. A reduction in the number of Army, Navy and Air Force units will be necessary, but even greater emphasis will be placed on quality. The agreement lays the foundation for a thorough modernization and streamlining of the armed forces. The question of providing the Swedish defense with atomic weapons was left open, but sizeable amounts will be earmarked for continued research.

PRIME MINISTER and Mrs. Tage Erlander arrived in London on February

16 for an unofficial visit of five days. They were received in audience by Queen Elizabeth at Buckingham Palace, and Prime Minister Harold Macmillan gave a dinner at 10 Downing Street. At the invitation of the British government the Swedish Premier visited the atomic power station at Calder Hall, and he also studied a new housing development and a modern comprehensive school. He further used the opportunity to attend a discussion about the European Free Trade Area between the trade unions and private business and industry.

Mr. and Mrs. Erlander were accompanied by Dr. Torsten Gustafsson, professor of physics at the University of Lund, Dr. Hans Håkansson, and the Premier's private secretary, Olof Palme. Dr. Gustafsson is a member of the Swedish Atomic Energy Commission and of the Department of Commerce Delegation for Atomic Energy, while Dr. Håkansson is secretary of the latter agency.

PRINCESS INGEBORG of Sweden died in her Stockholm home on March 12 at the age of seventy-nine. The daughter of the late King Frederik VIII of Denmark, she was the widow of Prince Carl, an uncle of King Gustaf VI Adolf, who died in 1951. They had four children, of whom two, Princess Margaretha, married to Prince Aksel of Denmark, and Prince Carl Bernadotte, are still living. Their second daughter, Märtha, who married Crown Prince Olav, now King of Norway, died in 1954, and the youngest, Astrid, who married King Leopold of Belgium, was killed in an automobile accident in 1955. Princess Ingeborg devoted much time and interest to child welfare and

warmly supported her husband in his work for the Swedish Red Cross, which he headed for forty years.

SWEDEN is participating in the U. N. Emergency Force in the Middle East with another contingent, according to a recent government decision. The numerical strength of the unit has been increased somewhat, to 500 officers and men; and the period of service has been set at seven months. The decision was made after the Defense Ministers of Denmark, Norway and Sweden had met, in Copenhagen, and agreed that their respective countries should continue to take part in UNEF.

FOR THE WHOLE Swedish people 1958 should be a year of better physical fitness and improved health, according to a campaign that is being launched by the national federations of workers and salaried employees and the national association of athletic clubs based on membership in economic and professional organizations, including industrial corporations. The sponsors include the National Athletic Association. Two years of planning lie behind the movement, the aim of which is to arouse the interest of as many Swedes as possible in sports and other forms of exercise, thereby making them more efficient and healthy citizens. The problems of the physically handicapped will also receive great attention.

BERTIL MALMBERG, poet, novelist and playwright, and one of the eighteen members of the Swedish Academy which awards the Nobel Prize in literature, died in Stockholm on February 11 at the age of sixty-eight. Born in the northern city of Härnösand, he studied

at the universities of Upsala and Lund, and Berlin, Germany. His first volume of verse, published in 1908; was followed by many more, as well as by essays, novels, and plays. An autobiographical novel, *Ake and His World*, was translated into English and published in New York. His dramatic production included *His Excellency*, which appeared in 1943. Placed in a Nazi-occupied country, it brought out the conflict between the essence of the Christian faith and the Nazi reign of terror. In 1917-26 Malmberg lived in Munich, Germany, where he belonged to the circle around *Simplicissimus*, the famed comic and satirical weekly paper.

THE TOMB of King Erik XIV (1533-77) in the Cathedral of Västerås, in central Sweden, was opened on January 20, and a belated inquest is being held in order to ascertain, if possible, how the unhappy, deposed monarch died. Part of the remains will be placed in the atomic research reactor in Stockholm, which will be able to reveal the presence of, for example, arsenic or quicksilver. Erik XIV died as a prisoner in the Örbyhus castle in the province of Uppland, according to popular tradition after having eaten pea soup which, at the direction of his brother Johan who had succeeded him on the throne, contained poison. (In *A History of Sweden*, published in the U. S. in 1956, Dr. Ingvar Andersson writes: "Erik XIV, depicted now as an effete romantic, now as a tragic artist of genius and now as a man who did not know his own mind, is one of the most fascinating of the long line of Swedish kings. He was a man of great talent who had acquired a depth of European culture at that time unique in Sweden.

He composed music, and was also well versed in astrology... From his father (Gustav Vasa, "Founder of the Swedish Realm") he inherited diligence and an interest in administrative affairs, to which he added a vivid imagination which often distorted his sense of reality... Although John (Johan III, his brother) undoubtedly welcomed his death, his complicity in it has never been fully established.")

IN THE WORLD NORDIC SKI CHAMPIONSHIPS, held at Lahti in Finland March 1-9, Sweden won two gold and two bronze medals, while Sixten Jernberg, for several years the country's leading cross-country skier, became the individual star. He won the 50-kilometer race, placed third in 30 kilometers, and paced the Swedish team to the 40-kilometer men's relay gold medal. Finland and Russia were the favorites in that event, but on the opening leg Jernberg gave the Swedes the lead, Lennart Larsson and Sture Grahn clung to it through the second and third legs, and the anchor man, Per-Erik Larsson, although overtaken by Pavel Kolchin of Russia, secured the victory. In the women's 15-kilometer relay the Swedish team placed third, after Russia and Finland. Finland compiled an unofficial team score of 68 points, to 46 for Russia, 25 for Sweden, and 18 for Norway. According to this system points are awarded on the basis of 7 for first place, and 5-4-3-2-1 for the next five.

THE PROBLEM of disarmament and its consideration in the United Nations, were discussed at a conference of the Nordic Foreign Ministers in Stockholm in March. According to a joint communiqué, there was agreement that

every possible effort must be made to break the continuing impasse on this issue. Towards that end, the Nordic countries will, now as before, support all realistic attempts to arrive at concrete results.

In the opinion of the Foreign Ministers, consideration of the question of stopping nuclear weapons tests for a specified or unspecified time, under adequate control, would at present seem to offer the best prospects for progress. Coincident with an accord on this issue, one should agree to initiate talks with a view to reaching results also in regard to such questions as cessation of production of fissionable materials for military purposes and a reduction of conventional forces.

Moreover, according to the communiqué, the Foreign Ministers felt that, with plans already proposed as a point of departure, efforts should likewise be made for a step-by-step consideration of regional disarmament measures in Europe.

Questions arising from the large-scale registration of merchant ships under so-called Flags of Convenience, which is weakening the competitive position of Nordic shipping, were also discussed at the Stockholm conference. Voicing concern over this practice, the Foreign Ministers expressed hope that growing international awareness of the problem might facilitate the institution of measures to limit Flags of Convenience registrations.

FRANS AUGUST LARSON, a legendary Swede who had become known as the "Duke of Mongolia," died December 19 at Vista, California, where he had lived

the last fifteen years. He was 87 years old. Last time he visited Sweden was in 1950, when he met his old friend Sven Hedin, the famous explorer, who died two years later. To the very last he refused to believe in a Communist China. "The leaders may be Communists," he said, "but the people, never."

In 1893 Mr. Larson went to Mongolia from Sweden for the American Bible Society. He met and married the late Mary Rogers, and they worked together as missionaries. Regarded by the Mongolians as a staunch friend, he managed to rescue many American and Swedish colleagues during the Boxer Rebellion in China in 1900. After the Chinese revolution in 1911 he was appointed adviser to the Chinese government on Mongolian affairs, and because of well-established friendships in both camps he was able to forestall bloodshed and help the Mongolians in various ways. The title of "Duke of Mongolia" was given him by a Living Buddha, in Mongolia's religious city, Ulan-Bator. In 1927-28 Mr. Larson was leader of a huge caravan which carried Sven Hedin's Sino-Swedish expedition through Mongolia to East Turkestan. He also cooperated closely with other explorers and scientists, from Sweden and the United States. The missionary gradually became a businessman and the owner of many houses and large herds of cattle, but later on the Soviet forces confiscated all his property. After about half a century in Mongolia and China, Mr. Larson moved to the United States. His eventful life provided material for several books, including his own memoirs.



The Sibyl. By PÄR LAGERKVIST. Translated from the Swedish by Naomi Walford. Random House, New York. 1958. 154 pp. Price \$3.00.

Once again Pär Lagerkvist journeys into the dark world of *Barabbas*, seeking the answers to the mystery of existence that he did not find to his satisfaction in *The Eternal Smile*, and attacking the corruption that he flayed before in *The Dwarf*. In *The Sibyl*, the Nobel-Price winner has an ideal vehicle for his moral quest.

With classical simplicity, he relates the legend of the Wandering Jew, who comes to a fallen priestess of the Delphic oracle in a desperate attempt to learn the meaning of his outcast state. She responds with the story of her own service to God; her sin of carnal love, and the birth of a child who is the son of God.

Here in a fable of pagan and Christian symbols, Lagerkvist asks once more his inevitable question: What is God? Orthodoxy affords no answer; for the "believers" are unfaithful and cruel. At the time of the sibyl's rejection from the temple, those with less godliness in their hearts stone her as she escapes to the sanctuary of the mountains. Even during her service to the oracle, they look upon her "differentness" with disdain. Those who worship most believe the least.

Yet what, after all, is God himself? He apparently punishes the wanderer for his disbelief and seemingly ignores the priestess when she would willingly serve. He appears enigmatic and remote, at once meaningless and inscrutable. Neither good nor evil, He is both good and evil. While all-absorbing, He is incomprehensible, cruel, and frightening.

But the fantasy has served its purpose. By bringing together the worlds of classical antiquity and early Christianity, Lagerkvist has managed to make his meaning clear. In the microcosm of a final episode, that

finds both sibyl and wanderer ranging the mountain tops in search of her now middle-aged son, who has listened to her story and for the first time realized his unwantedness and has mysteriously disappeared, the larger significance of the tale is inescapable. The very existence of God is in man's incessant search, which gives direction and meaning to life. If God is beyond man's reach, He is not past man's desire.

Indeed, *The Sibyl* is a reconstruction of its author's mind or a re-enactment of his lonely and ceaseless pilgrimage in search of Truth. The masterful dialogue structure, two separate voices raised to a single purpose, suggests—as in *The Eternal Smile*—Hebrew antiphonal poetry, which is sustained on a high lyrical note.

ROBERT DONALD SPECTOR
Long Island University

Denmark Before the Vikings. By OLE KLINT-JENSEN. Frederick A. Praeger, New York. 1957. Ill. 212 pp. Price \$5.00.

In their histories of pre-history, archaeologists usually fail to date their discoveries, definitely, whereby they could give their naïve readers pegs on which to hang their memories. For my own good I once timed the recession of the ice in Scandinavia at the end of the last glacial period at 15,000 B.C. Of course, this was a guess based on the evidence then available, subject to change year by year and now confirmed by Dr. Klindt-Jensen. Also I stated that there was no sign that Scandinavia was inhabited in any of the interglacial periods. Now this book proves that human beings did live in Denmark in the last interglacial period.

Last year, Danish archaeologists dug down into forgotten civilizations both in Iraq and Arabia and at home, every year they unearth human bodies, tools, musical instruments, jewelry, or fortresses from the Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic, Bronze, and Iron Ages. All this Dr. Klindt-Jensen records in an arresting style and with copious photographs. A fascinating book!

All power both to the archaeologists and the nuclear physicists! Whence we have come is as important as whether we are going.

H.G.L.

Norwegian-American Studies and Records. Volume XIX. EDITED BY CARLETON C. QUALEY. *Norwegian-American Historical Association*. Northfield, Minn. 1956. 217 pp. Price \$2.50.

No less than thirty-nine volumes have been published by the Norwegian-American Historical Association since 1926, the year in which its publications program was instituted. The series of *Studies and Records*, an important part of this program, has now reached Volume XIX, which takes its place as a worthy member of the group and offers the interested reader a collection of significant essays and articles, by new as well as old contributors.

Dr. Theodore C. Blegen, for more than thirty years the Association's managing editor, is the author of the opening selection, a splendid essay entitled "The Immigrant Image of America," which has been reprinted from *Land of Their Choice*, a collection of "America Letters" published by the University of Minnesota Press in 1955. A somewhat new slant on Hjalmar Hjorth Boyesen and his literary production is provided by Professor Clarence A. Glasrud, whose article will be part of a forthcoming book on this eminent scholar and writer. Professor William Mulder has contributed a paper on early Norwegian Mormons, subsequently published as part of his book *Homeward to Zion*; and the fabulous career of "Snowshoe" Thompson is dealt with in an article by Professor Kenneth Bjork, whose researches aid greatly in demarcating the line between the man and the legend.

Professor Arløv William Andersen has investigated the activities of the Norwegian and Danish Methodists on the West Coast and summarizes his findings in an article which covers much new ground. That is also true of the investigations of Curator Tora Bøhn of the North Norway Museum of Arts and Crafts, who in 1949-50 traveled widely in the U. S. searching for folk art in the possession of Norwegian immigrants and their descendants. Although the actual results of her search were rather meager, her article brings into focus the extent to which folk art is preserved in an immigrant milieu.

Another collection of immigrant letters,

those of Ole K. Trovatten, has been translated by Professor Clarence A. Clausen for inclusion in this volume. Trovatten, who left Norway in 1840, settled for a time in Muskego, Wisconsin, from where he wrote to friends in the district of Telemark and vividly described the trials and tribulations of the early pioneers. A compilation by Professor Oystein Ore of biographical, thumbnail sketches of university-trained Norwegian emigrants of the 1830-80 period underscores, in an indirect manner the many varieties of professional skills that were to be a tremendous gain to the young American nation. Lastly, the usual list of recent publications on Norwegian-American history has been compiled by Professor Clausen, who is continuing the exacting task for so many years carried out by Mr. Jacob Hodnefield.

The above summary is a mere indication of the merit of the volume under review. Like its predecessors, it uniformly hews to a high standard of scholarship and does honor to the Norwegian-American Historical Association, its editors, and its contributors.

ERIK J. FRIS

Homeward to Zion. By WILLIAM MULDER. *University of Minnesota Press*. Minneapolis, Minn. 1957. 375 pp. Price \$7.50.

The Mormons one must admire, and particularly the converts in Scandinavia, thirty thousand of them, who joined the emigration to America in the nineteenth century. Their apostolic zeal, their hard work and acquisition of wealth, their frugality in the use of alcohol, tobacco, coffee, tea, and sex, yes even their former sturdy polygamy are indeed remarkable.

More remarkable still was the financial set-up behind the emigration of Scandinavian Mormons to Utah. Many of them were able to pay their own way. The majority, however, borrowed from a religious loan association, and most of them, by their thrift in Utah, paid back their loans within ten years. Today the Mormons do not solicit social insurance nor ask for government aid. Like the Quakers

they make private provision for illness and old age.

Dr. Mulder's book is a history of the migration to Utah, the Zion or promised land of the Scandinavian Mormons. It is a masterpiece of historical research, completely documented, and at the same time a piece of classical literary style.

May I quote some verses that I wrote when visiting the Tabernacle in Salt Lake City to commemorate the flight of gulls who seemed to come in answer to prayer to devour the locusts which were destroying the Mormon crops:

The farmers prayed and fought the locust pest
Until across the Great Salt Lake they heard
The flapping wings of rescue from the West
And hailed the seagull, Utah's holy bird.

H.G.L.

Ny dansk billedkunst. By NIELS TH. MORTENSEN. *Munksgaards Forlag*, Copenhagen. *Skandinavisk Bogforlag*, Odense. Price 145.00 kroner.

This important and beautiful book covers the whole field of recent Danish art. Even those who are only able to study the plentiful illustrations, excellently reproduced both in color and black and white, cannot fail to be enlightened. The text, however, is of the essence.

The art of the last half century naturally receives by far the larger share of space, but it is not left hanging in the air. Mr. Mortensen is an art historian who bases his book on solid history, beginning with the Byzantine style of the many medieval frescoes in Danish churches. He delicately assesses what may be specifically Danish in them, as he does with the art described throughout, without the least chauvinism.

He is aware that in prehistory the Scandinavian cultures are called marginal, receiving the forms into which their creative impulse flowed mainly from older cultures, and he shows that this process has continued, and still continues, as it does in much larger countries. Through Danish versions of Classicism, Romanti-

cism, Impressionism and the latest clutch of "isms," he guides the reader without any pedantry or filing system, never forgetting that artists are responsive to the literary, political and religious movements of their period—whether they are for or against them. Nor does he blame an apple for not being a pear; sometimes he almost too indulgently puts himself in the artist's place in order to explain what the man's intention is, even if it is only "to put some big noise in the picture," as one modern Danish artist expressed himself.

As to modern art, he does put all the questions which those of us would like to put who approach it wearing smoked glasses and defiantly addicted to "Nature." Does the art of the forties and the fifties mean "a tragic evolution from individuality to an abstract color-uniform"? He only puts the question, assuring us that in Denmark as elsewhere the evolution since Impressionism does not mean the end of civilization. He is keenly aware of the goblins that wait to master a poor Danish artist "who has to direct attention to himself either by keeping up with international fashion and entering the arena with the latest-style pictures from Paris, or by quickly acquiring a glaring manner, even if it is at the expense of the direct experience, which alone is able to re-create life on canvas." But he knows that color springs from the artist's inner life, having its own realities, and he adds the warning that "if the earth-connection is lacking then the colors are so many gaudy rags flapping on the clothes-line."

Niels Th. Mortensen sees signs that a balanced and perhaps a more characteristically Danish art is flourishing quietly in the provinces. Of one artist from Fyn, Th. Hagedorn Olsen, he says: "He lives in a dream-world, where he takes large, sleep-walking strides. His figures step out of the faint light of early spring mornings, when the countryside stretches in juicily green and blue squares down to the whitely cold fjord."

Mr. Mortensen is a poet as well as an art critic and historian.

Art critics should always be poets.

SIGNE TOKSVIG

BOOK NOTES

Peter Freuchen's Book of the Seven Seas is a magnificent volume, filled with lore and legend, with history and solid facts as well as strange tales as only the late Danish author and explorer could tell them. Co-authored by David Loth, this whale of a book presents a colorful and exciting picture of man's adventures on the sea, from prehistoric voyages to modern expeditions, and will vastly increase the reader's knowledge about ships and boats and the sea itself, its tides, waves, and currents. Equally fascinating chapters deal with pirates and slave-traders, with whalers and naval battles, strange islands, and the great mysteries of the sea. The wealth of carefully selected maps and illustrations will add immeasurably to the enjoyment of the reader. (Julian Messner. 1957. 512 pp. Price \$7.50).

The Icelandic poet Jón Þorláksson (1744-1819) is the subject of a study by Professor Richard Beck recently published as No. 16 in the *Studia Islandica* series. (H. F. Leifur. Reykjavik. 1957. 63 pp.) Entitled *Jón Þorláksson, Icelandic Translator of Pope and Milton*, this valuable study is a condensed and revised version of the author's Ph.D. dissertation of 1926. It contains both a biographical sketch and a detailed examination of Þorláksson's work as a translator, based to some extent on comparisons between the English originals and the Icelandic versions of Pope's *Essay on Man* and Milton's *Paradise Lost*.

The American-Swedish Historical Foundation last year decided to discontinue issuing *The Chronicle*, its quarterly magazine, and instead resume publication of its former *Yearbook*: *The 1957 Yearbook*, edited by Professor Adolph B. Benson and handsomely illustrated, sets indeed a high standard for its successors, with a number of excellent articles on Swedish-American topics in addition to news items and reports about the ASHF and its Museum in Philadelphia.

Sven Stolpe, Swedish novelist, essayist and critic, is one of the best known of Scandinavian converts to Catholicism. *Sound of a Distant Horn*, his first novel to appear in English, was widely and favorably reviewed and commented upon. It is a story in which the deepest spiritual themes are explored and which will lead to increased understanding of the psychology of sin and grace. Originally published in Sweden under the title *Lått, snabb och öm*, the English version is the work of George Lamb. (Sheed & Ward. 1957. 301 pp. Price. \$3.95).

Seven renowned clergymen present a survey of world Lutheranism in a work recently published by Augsburg Publishing House in Minneapolis. Under the title *Lutheran Churches of the World* the book deals fully with the historical development, the organization, and the problems facing the Lutheran churches in Central Europe, Scandinavia, North and South America, as well as Asia and Africa. Concise and authoritative, the various accounts serve to clarify the impact on today's world of the Lutheran faith, which embraces a worldwide communion of 70 million people. The section on the Scandinavian countries has been written by Dr. Ragnar Askmark, Dean of the Cathedral of Gothenburg. (1957. 333 pp. Price \$3.50).

A number of Scandinavian architects and artists are represented in *Art in European Architecture*, an important volume recently issued by Reinhold Publishing Corporation. The book presents an excellent survey of post-war European architecture and demonstrates the modern synthesis of painting, sculpture, and architecture, and the attendant utilization of murals, stained glass, and mosaic. Hundreds of illustrations, many in color, bring out these trends and their often both beautiful and startling results. The text, printed in both English and French, is by Paul Damaz, a French architect and designer now residing in New York. The book also has a Foreword by Le Corbusier. (228 pp. Price \$12.50.)

The history and development of one of Norway's leading airlines, Braathen's South-American and Far East Airtransport (SAFE for short), are fully dealt with in *Alltid Videre*, a publication issued by Johan Grundt Tanum in Oslo. This very attractive and profusely illustrated volume traces the story of the SAFE airline, its origin and founding in 1946, the great progress made under the able leadership of Ludv. G. Braathen, and the way numerous obstacles were overcome. It is indeed a saga of enterprise! (1957. 127 pp. Price \$3.00).

The Heritage Press has issued a new de-luxe edition of Henrik Ibsen's *Peer Gynt*, profusely illustrated by the Norwegian artist Per Krohg. The text used is the English translation made by William and Charles Archer, whose work to most intents and purposes have very well stood the test of time. The imaginative drawings by Krohg, many in color, seem for the most part to have been infused with the genuine spirit of Ibsenism. (1957. 315+xxv pp.).

The brilliant career of Rasmus Rask, the great Danish linguistic scholar, came to an end in 1832. In conjunction with the 125th anniversary of his death, a small brochure entitled *Rasmus Rask's Grave* has been written and privately published by Dr. A. R. Nykl of Evanston, Ill. The inscriptions, in Icelandic, Arabic, Sanskrit and Danish, on Rask's gravestone are described and interpreted by Dr. Nykl, who has also added a brief summary of the famed linguist's life and work. (Price \$1.50).

Anyone interested in Scandinavian products, travel and services will find the Sixth Annual Edition of *Scandinavia in U.S.A.* to be indispensable. This attractive pocket-size directory contains illustrated and informative articles, and a comprehensive classified section covering importers, retailers, travel agents, and Scandinavian information and government offices in the U.S.A. (64 pages. Price 60 cents for one, \$1 for two copies. Published by Arthur Gomsrud, One Gregory Court, E. Norwalk, Conn.)

The Scandinavian World by Professor Andrew C. O'Dell is a scholarly and comprehensive review of the geography of the Northern countries, from Finland in the east to Greenland in the west. Illustrated with maps, diagrams and photographs, this important volume deals in great detail, and very competently, with the physical aspects of this huge area and its regional and economic geography. The author, who has traveled extensively in Scandinavia, is Professor of Geography in the University of Aberdeen. (Longmans, Green & Co. 1957. 549 pp. Price \$9.00).

Here Is the Far North by Evelyn Stefansson is a vivid description of the lands and peoples of Greenland, Iceland, and the Soviet Arctic. Not limiting herself to the geographic aspects of her subject, Mrs. Stefansson writes entertainingly about the history and culture of these regions as well as recent developments. The volume features a wealth of excellent photographs and a number of maps. (Charles Scribner's Sons. 1957. 154 pp. Price \$3.50). The author, who is the wife of the famous explorer, Vilhjalmur Stefansson, is the Librarian of the Stefansson Collection at Dartmouth College. One of her previous books, *Here Is Alaska*, will soon appear in a revised edition, and a projected volume on the Canadian Arctic will complete the series.

Henrik Ibsen's *Hedda Gabler* is among the four plays selected by Rinehart & Company for inclusion in one of their most recent paperback editions, entitled *Four Modern Plays*. Also represented are, Bernard Shaw, Eugene O'Neill, and Arthur Miller. (1957. 338 pp. Price 95 cents).

The British trade negotiations with Denmark, Norway, and Sweden during World War I are dealt with in some detail in *The Allied Blockade of Germany 1914-1916* by Marion C. Siney. The author of this important study is Associate Professor of History at Western Reserve University in Cleveland. (University of Michigan Press. 1957. 339 pp. Price \$6.50).

The Kensington Stone

A Mystery Solved

ERIK WAHLGREN

By means of scholarly sleuthing which will absorb all mystery, lovers Erik Wahlgren, a noted Scandinavian scholar, has solved the fifty-year-old controversy concerning the authenticity of the Kensington Stone. This curiously inscribed stone was discovered by a Minnesota farmer in 1898 and whose inscription, if true, would prove the exploration of North America over a century before Columbus.

308 pages \$5.00

The University of Wisconsin Press

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The Ghost by Karl E. Stahl is an unusual autobiographical narrative, both eventful and highly dramatic. Going to sea at the age of fourteen, the author had a full measure of trials and tribulations, being shanghaied and maltreated, and even terrorizing as a "ghost" the ship that finally took him to America. Following the harrowing experiences described in the book, the author went on to become a very successful businessman in his adopted country. (Exposition Press, 1957. 207 pp. Price \$3.50).

The Museum of Modern Art in New York early this year issued *Edward Munch - A Selection of His Prints from American Collections* by William S. Lieberman. Containing a brief biography and many reproductions of Munch's prints, this attractive booklet will no doubt serve to bolster the contention that his greatest work is to be found among his woodcuts and lithographs. (Distributed by Simon and Schuster, 39 pp.)

Gunilla is the story about a polar bear cub and its encounter with a trapper and his dog in Spitsbergen. This vivid yarn, with its splendid nature descriptions and charming illustrations will greatly appeal to young people. The author, Albert Viksten, is a Swedish writer who has spent more than a year in the regions described in the book. (Thomas Nelson & Sons, 1957. 160 pp. Ill. Price \$2.75).

Norda Prismo ("Northern Prism") may be called a World-Scandinavian Review! Dealing primarily with the culture of the Scandinavian countries, this magazine, published bi-monthly in Esperanto, was initiated three years ago and soon found a ready response throughout the world. Each issue comprises 65 pages and is richly illustrated. The review mainly contains articles on the cultural and social background of the Scandinavian countries, translations of Scandinavian poetry and prose, and articles on Northern painting and sculpture. (Barnhusgatan 8, Stockholm. Yearly subscription: \$2.00).



Musical visitors, individual and group, are expected from Scandinavia at this writing. In connection with the centennial festivities of the State of Minnesota, the world premiere of a new symphony by Harald Sæverud, commissioned for the occasion, was performed by the Minneapolis Symphony Orchestra, Antal Dorati conducting.

The ASF's own leader program for Finland will have its first musical representative this June in the person of Paavo Berglund, gifted young conductor (he's not yet 30) of the Helsinki Chamber Orchestra and one of the conductors of the Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra. During his 3-month stay on these shores, Mr. Berglund will observe at first-hand America's lively summertime music life as exemplified by such places as the Berkshire Music Center and the various music festivals and music school summer sessions throughout the country.

Most important of our musical visitors in the immediate future will be the Danish National Orchestra of the State Radio, which will arrive in New York in early October for its second American tour under the joint auspices of Columbia Artists Management and the American-Scandinavian Foundation. Thomas Jensen, who has succeeded the late Erik Tuxen as chief conductor at the Danish State Radio, and John Frandsen, conductor of the Danish Royal Theater, will share the baton during the six-week tour covering some 37 American cities. Iowa City (October 27), Minneapolis (October 28), Beverly Hills (October 31), Urbana (November 5), and New York (November 16) are among those cities with or near ASF chapters which will hear the Danish National Orchestra in the course of the forthcoming tour. It is to be hoped that ASF members will make a special effort to get as many of their friends as possible, as well as themselves to the Danish National Orchestra concert

nearest them when the time comes. Be it duly noted that this will mark the first appearance of this brilliant orchestra on the West Coast. As one who heard several of their concerts during the 1952 American tour, as well as numerous performances in Denmark, I can assure our friends in and around Los Angeles that they are in for a real treat at the end of October!

If new recordings of Scandinavian music have slackened off somewhat in recent months; the live performance picture in this country has looked very rosy indeed. New York had a premiere of a recent Trio for Piano, Clarinet and Cello by Sweden's Karl Birger-Blomdahl, which gave its performers, the Tichman Trio, very favorable press notices this past February. But it is the future which seems most promising, inasmuch as Leonard Bernstein, who assumes the Musical Directorship of the New York Philharmonic next season, has asked his young colleague, Thomas Schippers—who will be one of the featured guest conductors next season—to pay special attention to the Scandinavian repertoire.

New Recordings: The standard Scandinavian repertoire has dominated the picture during the first quarter of the year. Columbia offers a fine LP coupling of the Grieg and Sibelius string quartets played by the Budapest Quartet, plus a collection of the Finnish master's major tone poems—*En Saga*, *Tapiola*, *The Oceanides*, and *Pohjola's Daughter* done by Eugene Ormandy and the Philadelphia Orchestra. How strange that little more than a year ago there were no LP versions of *The Oceanides*, and now there are at least four! Mercury offers a Grieg collection by Sir John Barbirolli and the Hallé Orchestra—the *Peer Gynt* Suite No. 1, Elegiac Melodies for Strings, and best of all, the Symphonic Dances. The small but enterprising firm of Boston Records has announced a first recording by James Stagliano of the French Horn Sonata from the pen of Denmark's Niels Viggo Bentzon, which should be in the store by the time you read this.

DAVID HALL



*Freedom of Travel Extended
to Non-Scandinavians*

The freedom of travel in the North has now been extended to non-Scandinavians. In the summer of 1952 passports were abolished for Scandinavians traveling from one Northern country to another, and this arrangement became an immediate success. From May 1 non-Scandinavians are included. A foreigner arriving from abroad in Sweden, Norway, Denmark or Finland will thus be required to have his passport stamped only upon his first entry and before his last departure.

*Sightseeing by Viking Longship
near Stavanger*

One thousand years after King Harald Hårfagre, with his fleet of Viking longships, forged the union of Norway by winning the memorable battle of Hafrsfjord, a Viking Ship will once again be sailing these same waters, but this time with a complement of peaceful tourists on board. A Stavanger restaurant proprietor has ordered a true-to-life replica of the celebrated Oseberg ship, a vessel measuring 60 ft. from stem to stern. This proud craft was handed over in March, and will provide a picturesquie addition to the general run of tourist conveyance this summer when, crewed by 22 oarsmen—with extra hands to cope with the sails—she will enable 40 visitors at a time to obtain, a Viking's-eye view of local scenic attractions. Real mead, served in drinking horns, will be handed round, and every passenger will receive a "Viking Certificate" from none other than "King Harald Hårfagre" himself. At Mølja, where passengers will muster before setting off on their "raid", a Viking fortress will be set up, and here latter-day rovers will be served meat roast on the spit.

Icelandic Airlines Offer "Seasonal Rates"

In spite of the considerable cuts in their trans-Atlantic air fares instituted last April, Icelandic Airlines will continue to offer their very popular and extra low "Seasonal Rates" during the fall, winter and spring months. Also, in conjunction with the introduction of the new low prices, IAL extended their "Low Season" from five to no less than nine months, making June, July and August the only "High Season" months for eastbound traffic and July, August and September for westbound traffic. Icelandic Airlines is the only carrier with special "Low Season" rates.

The increased length of the "Low Season" will receive an enthusiastic welcome from the great number of "out-of-season" travelers, who will thus get the benefit of the extra low rates during nine months of the year in each direction. Many "out-of-season" travelers go abroad on business, while others go to Scandinavia for plain visiting or sightseeing, for Christmas, for skiing or fishing, or for the many other types of vacation that the Scandinavian countries can offer the year round.

For large and small families "Low Season" travel on Icelandic Airlines provides an additional travel bonus in the Family Travel Plan, by which one may take both wife and children along at substantial savings.

New Hotel in Stockholm

High on a pine-clad rocky promontory, with a stunning view over an inlet from the Baltic Sea, lies Stockholm's newest hotel, Foresta, combining many novelties and features never before offered tourists in Sweden. The hotel was opened early last summer, but new sections and facilities will be added. The nucleus of the present Foresta has existed for many years in the form of a private residence and later restaurant, which bears its white, brick-roofed structure like a medieval castle. This remarkable unit has been allowed to stand, although the interior is being completely rebuilt. In conjunction with the restaurant two new buildings have been erected, one

a five-story hotel, with broad balconies and spacious terraces, and the other a three-story apartment hotel. The Foresta will be able to accommodate 300 guests.

*Forestry Main Theme of
1958 St. Erik Fair*

"The Forest—Raw Material Source of Sweden's Largest Industry" will be the main theme of this year's St. Erik Industrial Fair, to be held in Stockholm August 30-September 14. The fair coincides with a sectional meeting of the International Union of Forestry Research and follows immediately upon the 9th Northern Forestry Congress, with an expected attendance of about one thousand. The forestry show will be divided into two exhibits, one concerned with ideas and the other a commercial section. The idea exhibit will form what the organizers call a "green line," showing some twenty phases of forestry work. An attempt will be made to create a simplified and uniform forestry nomenclature in the leading languages, probably in collaboration with FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization). The idea section will include a selection of the latest in the field of forestry machines and tools, while a wide range of machinery and implements will be shown in the commercial exhibit.

Midnight Sun and a Marble Bust

The final touches are now being put to the new restaurant crowning the 1000-foot North Cape rock, which will be open to visitors this season. The North Cape restaurant, built according to the winning design in a competition arranged for this purpose, will be a low building, constructed of natural stone and surrounded by a stone-fence, in harmony with its bleak and forbidding surroundings. The side facing the Arctic Ocean will contain a window over 50 ft. long, to allow the light of the Midnight Sun to stream in. A marble bust of Louis Philippe, king of France 1830-1848, will remind visitors of the journey to North Cape which he undertook in 1795, at the age of 22, when an exile from his native land. The bust will be brought to Norway this summer by the French frigate *Ailette*.

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SAS to Expand Summer Traffic

Scandinavian Airlines System will increase its summer traffic on the North Atlantic routes by about 40 per cent this year, offering 78 flights a week in each direction. There will be thirty-one flights from New York, and eight from Los Angeles on the Arctic route which now is in its fourth year. A new "Globetrotter" or economy class was introduced on April 1 when the summer schedule took effect.

SAS carried a total of 1,396,000 passengers in the twelve-month period ended last September 30, or 217,000 more than the year before, according to the company's annual report. About 44,000 passengers have flown the SAS route between Los Angeles and Europe since the service was started in November, 1954.

New Air Service to West Norway

This summer the town of Alesund in the northern corner of Vestlandet will inaugurate its new airport, and there will be a daily air service, operated by Braathen's SAFE with 58-seater DC4's, to and from Oslo. Alesund will also be linked up in the coastal route operated by this company, which will fly from Stavanger to Trondheim, calling en route at Bergen and Alesund. Thus there will be two connections daily Alesund-Bergen. The Oslo-Alesund flight should prove a major tourist attraction, as aircraft will pass over the Jotunheimen mountains and fly across the Romsdal Fjord past Andalsnes, providing passengers with a bird's-eye view of some of Norway's most breath-taking fjord and mountain scenery.

"Bergensfjord" to Cruise Around the World

The motor liner *Bergensfjord* of the Norwegian America Line will cruise around the world, in eighty days early next year, with departure from New York on January 17. The itinerary will include Gibraltar; Naples, Italy; Port Said and Suez, Egypt; Aden, Southern Arabia; Bombay, India; Colombo, Ceylon; Singapore; Bangkok, Thailand; Hong Kong; Kobe and Yokohama, Japan; Honolulu, Hawaii; Long Beach, California; Balboa, and Cristobal, Panama Canal Zone.

Just Published!

A HISTORY OF DANISH LITERATURE

By PHILLIP M. MITCHELL

A History of Danish Literature, the first book published by The American-Scandinavian Foundation in 1958, takes its place as the fourth in the ASF series of histories and literary histories of the Northern countries. In this volume Dr. Phillip M. Mitchell of the University of Kansas gives a comprehensive and very readable account of Danish belles lettres, in which are included all poets and prose writers of note from the earliest times down to our own day.

Dr. Mitchell provides not only biographical sketches of the numerous authors but, drawing upon the most recent research, he also gives highly authoritative analyses and interpretations of their work. In tracing the development of Danish literature he has taken due account of the historical background for each period and the prevailing cultural crosscurrents. Profusely illustrated, this book is certain to be warmly welcomed by the scholar and the general reader alike.

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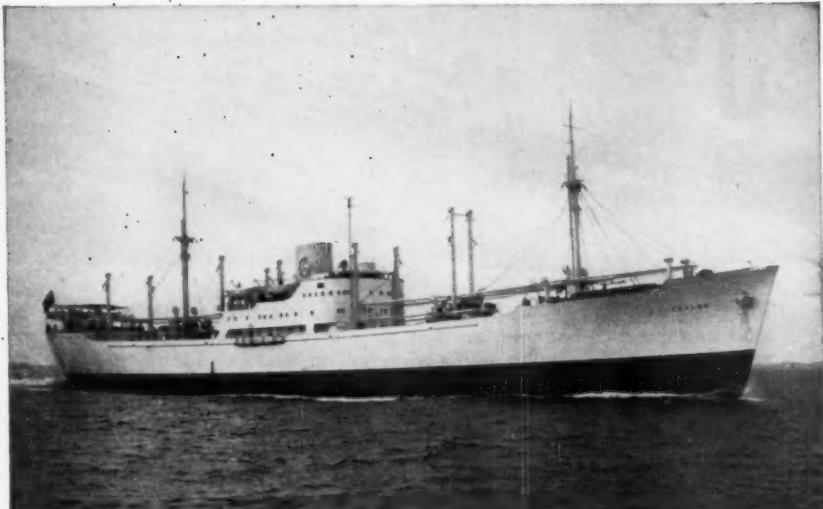


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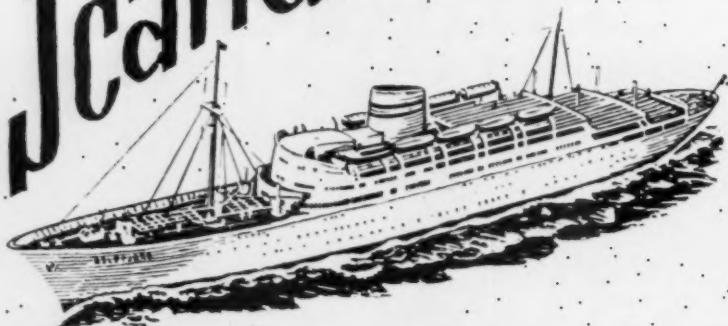
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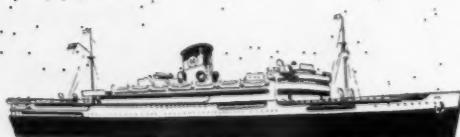
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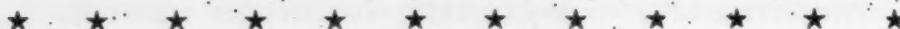
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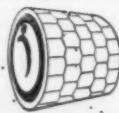


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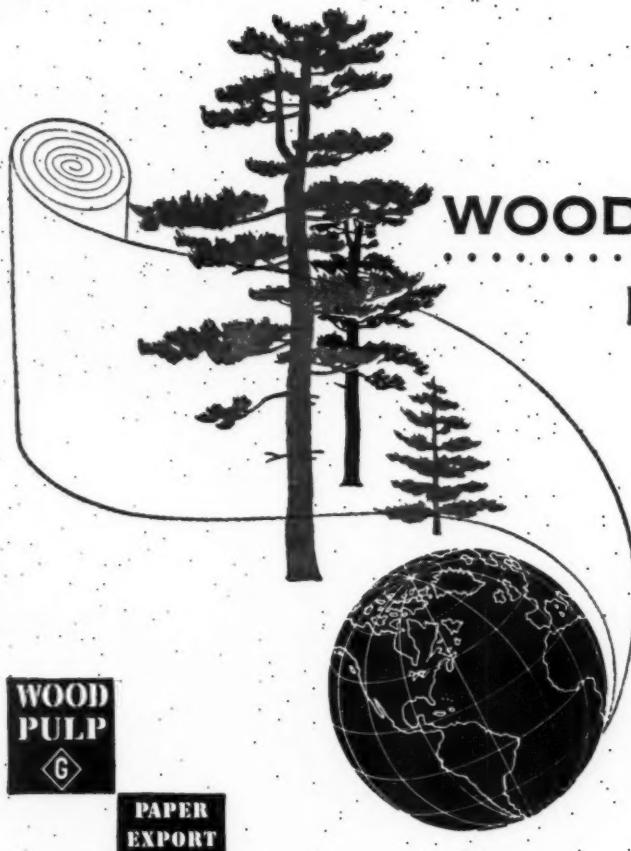
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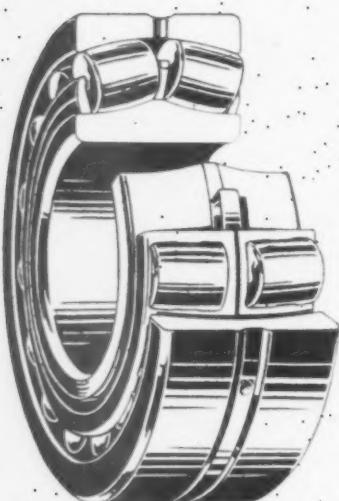
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